

How do we read I Cor. 13?

“People usually read this, and are taught to read it, as telling them to be patient, kind, free of jealousy, and so on...But Paul is plainly saying-look at his words-that it is love that does these things, not us, and that what we are to do is to “pursue love” (I Cor. 14:1). As we catch love, we then find that these things are after all actually being done by us. These things, these godly actions and behaviors, are the result of dwelling in love.”

--Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

I Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

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Love is Humble

- Embrace humility-not envy
- Embrace humility-not boasting
- Embrace humility-not Pride

Love is Humble

1. Embrace humility by celebrating the success of others

The Corinthians and Envy

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be *no divisions among you* and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that *there are quarrels among you*. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

I Cor 1:10-12

The Corinthians and Envy

You are still worldly. *For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you*, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

I Cor 3:3-4

The Corinthians and Envy

Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." *Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.*

I Cor 4:6

I Corinthians 3:5-7

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. *So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

Embrace humility-

Let's celebrate the success of others

- Give God the Glory for His work through others

Embrace humility-

Let's celebrate the success of others

- Give God the Glory for His work through others
- Do NOT play the comparison game

Love is Humble

1. Embrace humility by celebrating the success of others
2. Embrace humility by magnifying the One Eternal Name.

The Corinthians and Boasting



Boasting in Ann Arbor?

“I found my adult life in Ann Arbor; I found my way there, my living and my vocation. The city’s flaws were mine, as well; no fault of the city is alien to me. Living close to the stadium, hearing the cheers in the Saturday afternoons, I thought I recognized the recreational arrogance that the rest of (the state of) Michigan identifies as the characteristic of Our Very Wonderful Town. The spiritual practices of humility-the highest disciplines of the soul-are not, as it has to be said, held in great esteem in Ann Arbor”

-by Charles M. Baxter in *Ann Arbor (w)rites*

Embrace Humility-

Let's magnify the One Eternal Name

1. Talk up your peers and competitors

Embrace Humility-

Let's magnify the One Eternal Name

1. Talk up your peers and competitors
2. Beware of boasting in others (eg. your kids); it may lead to unwarranted control.

Love is Humble

1. Embrace humility by celebrating the success of others
2. Embrace humility by magnifying the One Eternal Name.
3. Embrace humility by resting in the truth of God's love.

The Corinthians and Pride

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

I Cor 12:14-15

The Corinthians and Pride

But in fact *God has arranged* the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

I Cor 12:18

Embrace Humility-

Let's rest in the truth of God's love.

1. Beware of pride's counterpart-self pity.

Embrace Humility-

Let's rest in the truth of God's love.

1. Beware of pride's counterpart-self pity.
2. Go the extra mile-humbly apologize and forgive one another.

The Corinthians and Pride

But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

I Corinthians 1:27-31

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

I Corinthians 1:27-31

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."