How to Get Along with Others

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

The Origins of "Valentine's Day"

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Jesus cited the Torah of Moses which said:

De 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And… Le 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

True, life-long friendships are hard to find

Pr 18:24 … there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Failed marriages can get a fresh new start if God's ways are embraced and His power is tapped into.

How can we better get along with others (in our marriages and friendships)?

Prerequisites:

- Know Jesus personally (you cannot know the love of God apart from know the God of love)
- Bury selfish ambition (love and selfishness are opposites)
- Yield to the Holy Spirit (love is a fruit of the Spirit)

Actions and Attitudes which flow out of LOVE from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

1. **Be PATIENT as God is with you** (love "suffereth long")

2. **Speak and act with KINDNESS** *(love "is kind")*

3. **APPRECIATE the differences and blessings of OTHERS and be content with yours** *(love "envieth not")*

4. **View yourself HUMBLY** *(love "vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up"*

5. **Don't act RUDELY** *(love does not "behave itself unseemly")*

6. **Be a GIVER, not a selfish taker** *(love "seeketh not her own")*

7. **Don't be easily IRRITATED or stirred up to ANGER** *(love "is not easily provoked")*

8. **Don't keep a RECORD OF WRONGS** *(love "thinketh no evil")*

9. **Be SAD about SIN** (in your life especially) *(love "rejoiceth not in iniquity")*

10. **Be in pursuit of TRUTH** (hear it, believe it, tell it, live it) *(love "rejoiceth in the truth")*

11. **NEVER GIVE UP on others** *(love "Beareth all, believeth all, hopeth all, endureth all")*

    How do we get along with others? We love, the way God says to.
    Always be asking yourself: "Is what I am about to say the most loving way to say it?" Ask: "Is what I am about to do the most loving way of behaving?"

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The Origins of "Valentine's Day"

Although different opinions exist about how Valentine's Day began, the most common legend has it that a Roman priest named Valentine defied the Roman Emperor, Claudius, who gave an order to stop allowing young men to get married (Claudius figured that they would be less distracted and be better soldiers in the Roman Army if they were not married). Valentine refused to follow the order and continued to perform the marriages of young men and women. We was arrested, imprisoned, and eventually beheaded on February 14th 269 A.D. Legend has it that Valentine had befriended the jailer's blind daughter who became his friend. On the day of his execution he wrote a farewell letter to her and signed it "from your Valentine."

Valentine would eventually be known as "the patron saint of lovers" and in 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius officially recognized February 14th (the date of Valentine's martyrdom) as a holiday to honor St. Valentine.

Today, Valentine's day is celebrated by sending "Valentine Cards" giving chocolates, sending red flowers (usually roses) and exchanging poems and "love messages"

February 14 is not a Biblical holiday. If we are to find any reason to utilize this day for redeemable purposes, I think that it is appropriate to use it as an opportunity to honor heterosexual marriage and to promote God's gift of agape love.

According to 1 Corinthians 13, agape love is the supreme virtue all genuine Christians should aspire to have. It is an essential virtue, and exalted virtue, and an eternal virtue according to that chapter in God's Word.

Life is about relationships (not things) and therefore a pursuit to love God and others should be paramount in our pursuits (Love is the greatest of all commands – Matthew 22:37-38)

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Actions and Attitudes which flow out of LOVE from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

1. Be PATIENT as God is with you (love "suffereth long")
"be patient toward all" (1 Thess. 5:14)
"patient" – macrothumia (to endure much heat)

"Suffereth long" - patient

ILLUS: Christ's patience with proud, selfish, quibbling disciples (*"He loved them to the end"*)

Word used of God - *"...longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish..."*

When among those who are hating us and seeking to do us wrong, we don't allow resentment and retaliation although they deserve it.

"Those who deserve love the least, need it the most!"

Those who have Agape Love have an extra level of tolerance toward those who are stupid, careless and inconsiderate.

2. Speak and act with KINDNESS *(love "is kind")*

***"And is kind"* -** useful, helpful, friendly

A mark of Christ's ministry on earth (EX: woman at the well; adulterous woman).

Kindness - despite the surroundings (especially when life is distressing and hard).

Those who have Apape Love are sensitive to the needs of others; Always seeking a way to serve.

3. Appreciate the differences and blessings of OTHERS and be content with yours *(love "envieth not")*

not jealous ("envy" - from "zeal")

EX: Acts 17:1-5 - Unbelieving Jews in Thessalonica *"moved with envy."*

To resent others' prosperity.
*Don't be jealous of others' ability. . .
*Don't be jealous of others' success. . .
*Don't be jealous of others' possessions . . .
*Rather, praise God for it!

Don't try to belittle others, so as to raise up yourself!

"Love looks through a telescope - <u>envy</u> through a microscope."

Those who have Agape Love do not resent the prosperity of others!

4. View yourself Humbly *(love "vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up"*

"Vaunteth not itself" - lit. does not parade itself (it is not boastful, does not brag).

Behind boastful bragging, there lies conceit, an over-estimation of one's own importance, abilities or achievements.

Paul goes from envy, to boasting, and from boasting to puffing oneself up -- a natural sequence of lovelessness.

Those who have Agape Love refrain from rehearsing all of their good traits and promoting self.

"Is not puffed up" - to be arrogant

Jesus said, "*He that exalteth himself shall be abased; he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."*

Cp. II Cor. 12:20 - *"puffed up" =* <u>swelling</u>

Those who have Agape Love do not stubbornly insist that their way is best; nor does it look down the nose at others!

- Consider others better than yourself

5. Don't act rudely *(love does not "behave itself unseemly")*

"Doth not behave itself unseemly" = to act unbecoming, rude.

After pride puffs up the heart, tactlessness, disrespect, dishonor and inconsideration in conduct naturally follow.

The concept of *"unseemly behavior"* is translated elsewhere in the New Testament as shame, nakedness, indecency, and is applied to illicit sexual lifestyles (EX: Rom. 1:27 - Homosexuality = *"men with men working that which is unseemly")*

Love never <u>sins</u>.

Love does not shame the testimony of Christ.

Those who have Agape Love are considerate and courteous, not sarcastic and rude!

6. Be a giver, not a selfish taker *(love "seeketh not her own")*

"Seeketh not her own" - *Seek =* to covet earnestly, strive

I Cor. 10:24 - *"Let not man seek his own, but every man another's welfare."*
II Cor. 12:14 - *"I seek not yours but you."*
Phil. 2:21 - *"For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."*

Love does not seek one's own pleasure, profit, honor, etc.

Does <u>not</u> seek the love of others. "There is more pleasure in loving than in being loved."

True love is always unselfish. How easily said, how hard to attain!

Those who have Agape Love seek the other person's best interest!

7. Don’t be easily irritated or stirred up to anger *(love “is not easily provoked”)*

"Is not easily provoked" - angered, stirred up

Irritated - to the point of a sharp disagreement (EX: Acts 15:39)

Love is not embittered or enraged by abuse, wrong insult, or injury.

"Man is like a piece of steel - he's no good when he loses his temper."

EX: *"When Christ was reviled, He reviled not again."*

EX: Mt. 5:44 - *"Love your enemies..."*

Those who have Agape Love control their anger even when pushed to the limit!

8. Don’t keep a record of wrongs *(love “thinketh no evil”)*

"Thinketh no evil" - Keeps no account book (record) of the wrongs of others. It forgives and forgets (70 x 70).

*Love does not count something against someone.

*Love does not keep a record of wrongs.

Same word used of God: *"He does not impute to us our guilt"*

Rom. 4:8 - *"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will <u>not impute</u> sin."*

II Cor. 5:19 - *"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, <u>not imputing</u> their trespasses unto them..."*

Those who have Agape Love forgive the wrongs committed against them and do not keep score, nor store up memories of past wrongs and then drag them out to win a point at some future time. (Richard Strauss)

Be willing to overlook petty differences

9. **Be sad about sin** (in your life especially) (love “rejoiceth not in iniquity”)

"Rejoiceth not in iniquity" - No pleasure in sin whatsoever.

--Does not rejoice over sin in our own life (EX: past sin, before salvation)

--Verse is more specifically referring to sin in the lives of others. Does not find joy in some juicy tid bit about someone else.

We should be grieved, our hearts should be broken!
Because:
Sin hurts the one who committed it.
Sin calls for the chastisement of God upon the wrong doer.
Sin grieves God's heart - He is displeased.

Those with Agape Love do not take sweet pleasure in the troubles, misfortunes, or failures of even their enemies who fall into sin's snare.

10. **Be in pursuit of truth** (hear it, believe it, tell it, live it) (love “rejoiceth in the truth”)

Love gladly finds pleasure when unrighteousness has been delivered out of a person, and he is living right with God.

Those who have Apape Love praise God when their enemy comes to find the truth of God's grace & love.

11. **Never give up on others** (love “Beareth all, believeth all, hopeth all, endureth all”)

"Beareth all things" **-** supportive, protective
Derived from a word that means "to protect, to cover, to put a roof over, to throw a cloak of silence over what is displeasing in another person."

You go to that person -- not broadcast it to the world. Love never gossips.

I Peter 4:8 - *"And above all these things, have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall* (imperative) *cover* [not the same word as "beareth" but similar idea] *the multitude of sins."*

Those who have Agape Love put a lid on gossip and do not broadcast confidentialities.

"Believeth all things" - trusts; (this does not mean that love is gullible, but that it won't become a skeptic even after getting burned in the past)

Refuse to believe suspicions of doubt.

The flesh is ready to believe all things about a brother and a fellow man in an evil sense. Love does the opposite.

Love places confidence in, it relies upon.

While love *"beareth all things"* in that it refuses to immediately believe all that is worst in a person, it secondly *"believeth all things"* - all that is best in a person.

Those who have Agape Love do not torment others with groundless suspicions but treat them with trust (ultimately trusting God).

"Hopeth all things" - to trust with confidence.
We <u>expect</u> what is best in another person.

Hope knows no pessimism.
Paul said, *"I am <u>confident</u> that He which hath begun a good work in you..."*
The basis of this confidence is not in the person's natural abilities, but in the grace of Christ.

Those who have Agape Love do not lose all confidence in a person and sink into discouragement, despondency and despair.

"Endureth all things" - Brave perseverance.
To remain under; to maintain control under pain, pressure, and injury.
**Opposite of fleeing away and quitting!
When we love our <u>children</u>, we don't quit! Our <u>mate</u>, etc.

Those who have Agape Love do not allow problematic people to rob them of their joy nor will power to go on.

How do we get along with others? We love, the way God says to.
Always be asking yourself: "Is what I am about to say the most loving way to say it?" Ask: "Is what I am about to do the most loving way of behaving?"