

Gary Armstrong
Love the World

1 John 4:7-12

I. Command to Love (vs.7-8)

II. Communication of Love (vss.9-10)

III. Cause for Love (vss.11-12)



Am I Showing Agape Love? 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;"

1. **Love suffers long:** Love will endure a long time. It is the heart shown in God, when it is said of the Lord, The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). If God's love is in us, we will be longsuffering to those who annoy us and hurt us.

2. **Love is kind:** When we have and show God's love, it will be seen in simple acts of kindness. A wonderful measure of kindness is to see how children receive us. Children won't receive and respond to unkind people!

3. **Love does not envy:** Envy is one of the least productive and most damaging of all sins. It accomplishes nothing, except to hurt. Love keeps its distance from envy, and does not resent it when someone else is promoted or blessed.

4. **Love does not parade itself:** Love in action can work anonymously. It does not have to have the limelight or the attention to do a good job, or to be satisfied with the result. Love gives because it loves to give, not out of the sense of praise it can have from showing itself off.

5. **Love ... is not puffed up:** To be puffed up is to be arrogant and self-focused. It speaks of someone who has a "big head." Love doesn't get it's head swelled, it focuses on the needs of others.

6. **Love ... does not behave rudely:** Where there is love, there will be kindness and good manners.

7. **Love ... does not seek its own.** This is being like Jesus in a most basic way, being an others-centered person instead of a self-centered person.

8. **Love ... is not provoked:** We all find it easy to be provoked, to become irritated with those who are just plain annoying. But it is a sin to be provoked, and it isn't loving.

9. **Love ... thinks no evil:** Literally, this means "love does not store up the memory of any wrong it has received." Love will put away the hurts of the past instead of clinging to them.

10. **Love ... does not rejoice in iniquity:** It is willing to want the best for others, and refuses to color things against others.

11. **Love rejoices in the truth.** Love can always stand with and on truth, because love is pure and good like truth.