

The Five Ingredients Needed for Great fellowship (Part 1) Heavy on the Love (1 Cor. 13:5-8)

Introduction: Over the next several weeks I want to share a different type of recipe with you. I want to share “The Five” *Ingredients needed for Great fellowship*. The kind of fellowship that warms and satisfies us and that is essential to every church body and family. Fellowship means Sharing things in common with others. As John has told us God is love (1 Jn. 4:8, 16). Love is the first and greatest ingredient needed in our recipe for fellowship in the church. *This is why we need to go “Heavy on the Love!”* In our text here in 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul guided by the Holy Spirit, wrote one of the most famous descriptions of true and pure love. Paul has told us, love is... (vv. 1-4) *This is the kind of love that builds true fellowship in the body of Christ...* But, this is only half the picture! Notice now, Paul give the rest of the description of love...

I. Love is not provoked: (5b)

- A. **To be provoked** –means to have a sharpness of Spirit or to be irritable, touchy and quick to take offense. The Corinthians were provoking one another (3:21; 5:1-2; 6:1-8; 8:11-12; 12:21-22).
- B. **To not be provoked** – Paul was saying true love, can live with the unpleasantness without being unpleasant itself.

II. Love does not keep a record of wrongs:

- A. **Records are good for business practices**
 - 1. Paul says, true love, keeps no such ledger. Instead this kind of love chooses to forgive! (Mt. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:32)
 - 2. **Jesus said this was so important** - (Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn. 1:25)
- B. **keeping records of wrongs is a bad business practice for the church**
 - 1. In the church body and family, there is no place for ledgers.
 - 2. We are to learn to cultivate the kind of love and forgiveness among us that we want from God for us! (Jn. 13:34; 15:12; Mt. 6:14, 15)

III. Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness:

- A. **True love does not seek to manipulate others.**
- B. **True love does mean** – unrighteousness should not be ignored. (Mt. 18:15; Lk. 17:3-4; 1 Peter 4:8). See also (Gal. 6:1; 2 Thes 3:15; Col. 3:13) (cf. Prov 10:12; 1 Cor 13:4-7).

IV. Love rejoices with the truth:

The word “with” makes love and truth literally partners.

- A. **Love knows when to speak up** – (Prov 27:6) (see also 2 Sam. 12:7-31; Jb. 5:17 – 18; Ps. 141:5) But, also...
- B. **Love knows when to shut up** – (That may not be a very polite term but, it is true). True love doesn’t play games.

V. Love bears all things:

- A. **This love has its difficulties** – When we read 1 Cor 13:4-7 carefully and compare this with the fruit of the Spirit listed in Gal 5:22-23, and we see this is what releases the power of the Spirit in our lives and churches.
- B. **This love doesn’t stop** – by the power of God this love doesn’t stop to lick its wounds.

VI. Love believes all things:

Believes does not mean gullible! (Remember love and truth go hand in hand).

- A. **This is a reference to discernment** – Just as Prov 14:15b reminds us (Jer. 29:8-9; Mt. 17:15-16; Mt. 24:4-5)
- B. **This is not a reference to deception** – it is just that this kind of love will consider the motives and make every possible allowance for the failure.

VII. Love hopes all things:

- A. **Usual view of hope** - wishful thinking.
- B. **The biblical view of hope** –It always means the expectation of something. (Gal. 5:5; Col. 1:4-5; Titus 2:13)

VIII. Love endures all things:

- a. **Love perseveres** –.
- A. **Love is a portrait** – (1 Jn. 4:8, 12)

Conclusion: And if we are going to love one another successfully we need to love like Paul describes here in this chapter of this letter.

Would you commit today to fill our church and fellowship with this kind of love as much as it depends upon you?

I’ve never heard anyone say, “*I had to leave that church because they love you too much over there.*”