

February 18, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

1 Cor. 13:4-8a Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, 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. (NIV)

Ok, it's time for your assignment. Read through this very familiar passage again, except this time, insert the LORD for every time it reads 'love' or 'it.' It will read like this: The LORD is patient, The LORD is kind. The LORD does not envy. The LORD does not boast. The LORD is not proud. The LORD does not dishonor others. The LORD is not self-seeking. The LORD is not easily angered. The LORD keeps no record of wrongs. The LORD does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. The LORD always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. The LORD never fails. Isn't that beautiful? And it is biblical because **1 John 4:16** proclaims: ***God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. (NIV)***

We are to be patient with each other because He is perfectly patient with us. We are to be kind to everyone because He is so very kind to us. We are not to envy what others have because He will be our provider. We must not boast in and of ourselves, for without Him, we would have nothing. We must not live a prideful life, because He has given us everything that we have. We must not dishonor others because He first loved us and made us all in His image. We must look to the good of others before ourselves and lift others up. We must die to our old ways and live in the way of the LORD. We must remember that everyone is sinful, but that the LORD has paid for our sin and we have no right to be angry at people. We must wipe the slate clean when we've been hurt because that's what the LORD has done for us. We must live in the path of truth so that we can protect each other; trust each other; give hope to each other and not give up on each other. God's love, through us, will never come up short. What if you and I would live like this today? Do you think it would make a difference? I believe we would begin to truly experience real life.

Dear LORD, thank You your unconditional love. Love is Who You are. Help us to walk and live in Your love today so that others can see and experience the love of God. In Jesus Name, Amen