January 23, 2020

Ten Pictures of Love - #3

1 Cor. 13:4-6 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.

We've seen two things that God's kind of love is: It is patient, and it is kind. Now Paul shares what love is not. It does not envy. This Greek word is zeloo. The root of this word is zeo which means to boil. It means that we envy others and wish we had what they had, or could do what they can do. It also carries the thought that because I don't have what they have, I hold it against them. Lastly, it is believing that we deserve the love of God rather than being thankful for it. God's word is admonishing us to not live like those who have no hope. When we withhold our love from those that we envy, we are living like the world instead of like our Lord. God did not choose who He would love and who He wouldn't. That is not in His nature for we know that the Bible teaches us that God is love!

The way we can show others what Jesus is like is by loving them unconditionally. Letting them know that they matter. We must, as children of God, put off everything (including envy) that so easily entangles us and run the race with perseverance.

Adam and Eve envied the one tree they weren't supposed to eat from. Cain envied Abel's sacrifice to God. Joseph's brothers envied his Father-given coat of many colors. And on and on it goes. Even the disciples argued about who would get to sit at the right hand of Jesus when He sets up His kingdom here on earth. We want what we want, when we want it; but as a believer, we should want what Jesus wants when He wants it.

Dear Father, how can we truly love others when we have envy in our hearts? Help me Lord to love like You love. Give like You give. Encourage like You encourage. Lord I am weak but You are strong. Love through me today, please Lord Jesus. In Jesus Name, Amen.