

**November 24, 2024**

# LOVE

Finding a Love That Lasts



## Love is Not Proud

**1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)**

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

### Sermon Summary:

Relationships are hard. In today's me-first world of instant gratification, cancel culture and no-fault divorce, it seems almost impossible to find a true love. Friendships fracture, families fight and romances fizzle. Is finding a love that lasts simply a figment of the imagination that is found in fairytales?

Could it be that love is being looked for in the wrong places? Rather than looking outward to others for a love that endures, we need to learn to live out a love that lasts.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4, one simple yet profound verse, the Apostle Paul gives four clear personal actions that create a lasting love.

As he closes his description of Christian love, Paul notes that love is neither boastful, nor is it proud. Boasting and pride were major issues in the Corinthian congregation and God through Paul is calling them to unity through love. Pride is a problem because it, it produces misunderstandings, it provokes arguments, it prevents intimacy, it postpones reconciliation. To overcome pride in relationships and live out Christian love we must, accept our humanity, recognize God's grace, experience God's humble love.

### Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Share about someone you know that you that demonstrates the love describe in this verse.
2. What about their actions displays this love?
3. Do you think humility is a key part of their love?

### Scripture Study Questions:

1. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:10
  - What does Paul call for in the Corinthian church?
  - How might pride cause disunity in a church, business, or interpersonal relationship?
2. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4
  - By boastful, Paul is describing a posture that is puffed up or self-important. How do you see this attitude manifesting in the world today?
  - Greek and Roman society was about gaining honor from others and avoiding shame. Do you think this cultural drive to seek honor was a part of the boasting and pride happening in the Corinthian church?

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3. Carl Trueman is a Protestant thinker that has written extensively about identity in modern America.
  - The psychological self, the notion that we are who we feel we are and that the purpose of life is inward, psychological contentment or satisfaction, renders identity a highly plastic, malleable thing, detached from any authority greater than personal conviction. (Trueman 2020).
  - Where does Truman say that the modern American looks for meaning and identity?
  - How might an inward focus lead to an increase in pride.

## Application Questions:

1. Read Philippians 2:5-8
  - How is Jesus described in these verses?
  - How are Christians encouraged to model the character of Jesus?
  - How might modeling this character provide an antidote to the problem of boasting and pride?
2. In simple terms the Good News of Christianity is that we can have right relationship with God through faith in Jesus, which was earned by his death and resurrection. No person can earn their way to a right relationship with God; rather, it is received freely as a gift through faith. Furthermore, in the Christian life, the truth of this Good news is meant to be the center of our self-identity.
  - How might placing the Good News at the center of your life encourage humility?
  - How might it influence how you love others?
3. Prayer
  - “God thank you that in humility you came to earth, lived the life we could not live, and died the death we deserved. Through this we can experience right relationship with you and with others. God help us with the power of the Holy Spirit that our relationships would be marked with the same radical humility you displayed on the cross. We ask this in the mighty and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.”