

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE?

The characteristics of **Love** are listed in: *1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV)* - "Love suffers long (= is patient) 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; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..."

Let's analyze it with a study from the original Greek text.

1. **Love suffers long** - *makrothymēō* = to be patient, not to lose heart, to persevere patiently and bravely, to be slow to anger, to be patient with a weaker or less mature Christian brother or sister;
2. **And is kind** - *chrēsteuomai* = to show one's self mild, to be kind, to use kindness;
3. **Love does not envy** - *zēloō* = not to be heated or to boil with envy and hatred;
4. **Love does not parade itself** - *perpereuomai* = not to boast one's self, to brag, to show off, to give oneself airs;
5. **Is not puffed up** - *physioō* = not to be puffed up, to bear one's self loftily, be proud or arrogant;
6. **Does not behave rudely** - *aschēmoneō* = not to act unbecomingly, not to behave inappropriately;
7. **Does not seek its own** - *zēteō* = not to seek after, not to seek for, not to aim at, not to strive after; heautou = himself, herself, itself, themselves; not to seek what is convenient and profitable for us, not to be selfish and

self-centered, not to think just of ourselves, not to demand our own way;

8. **Is not provoked** - *paroxynō* = not to be easily irritated, provoked, aroused to anger, not to be touchy, quick tempered, irritable;
9. **Thinks no evil** - *logizomai* = not to judge, not to determine; *kakos* = evil, wicked, destructive, not such as it ought to be; not to be resentful, not to hold grudges, not to keep a record of wrongs when a fellow believer sincerely repents. This refers to a believer with another believer; in this situation a mature Christian forgives and sees the purity of their fellow believer's heart instead of labeling them as evil and judging them according to their past mistakes. If someone is unrepented or repents but not with the sincere intent to change, a mature Christian discerns that that individual is not a brother/sister in Christ and therefore they judge their behavior as sinful and see the evil in it;
10. **Does not rejoice in iniquity** - *chairō* = not to rejoice, not to be glad; *adikia* = a deed violating Law of God and justice, act of unrighteousness; not to be glad with sin; not to be rejoice at wrongdoing or injustice;
11. **But rejoices in the truth** - *sygchairō* = to rejoice with, to be glad with; *alētheia* = truth, referred to biblical Truth, the true knowledge of God and the principles of His Kingdom; to be glad to side with truth, to rejoice whenever truth wins out;
12. **Bears all things** - *stegō* = to bear up, protect; *pas* = all things, everything; to protect all, if you love someone (referred to a brother/sister in Christ) you will be loyal and faithful to him/her no matter what the cost,

you will cover them and always stand your ground in defending and protecting them;

13. **Believes all things** - *pisteuō* = to give credit, to place confidence in someone, believe; *pas* = all things, everything; to believe the best in all fellow believers who are sincere and mature, have confidence in them and don't doubt them making them feel like they don't measure up; it does not refer to unbelievers who don't mind to sin and don't care about changing, in dealing with them a mature Christian needs to always discern and determine if their behavior is sincere or not and therefore does not automatically believe and place confidence in them;
14. **Hopes all things** - *elpizō* = hopefully to trust in; *pas* = all things, everything; hopefully to trust in all fellow believers who are known to be sincere in their love for God;
15. **Endures all things** - *hypomenō* = to preserve, to hold fast, to endure, to persevere, not to fall or to perish; *pas* = all things, everything; to persevere in every situation, even under misfortunes and trials and hold fast to one's faith in Christ;
16. **Love never fails** - *ekpiptō* = love never perishes, never falls, never falls powerless; is never ineffective.

Furthermore, Jesus explains that by this principle, Christians are known for being His disciples and followers in: *John 13:34-35 (NKJV)* - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."