

Mature Love Defined -- Part 2

I. Kind (Steady in Compassion)

- Love is kind... (1 Cor. 13:4)
 - A. Kindness according to the scriptures is expressed, as a steady heart of compassion that is always ready to respond in truth and faithfulness in any situation.
 - B. God's kindness seeks nothing in return. Jesus gave himself continually to healing the sick, raising the dead, and eventually dying for all mankind who in their pre-miracle state had nothing to lean on except His kindness. Many who He healed and died for never gave as much as a thank you for His kindness.
 - C. **Synonyms of Kind** - Affectionate, compassionate, friendly, and thoughtful.
 - D. **Antonyms of Kind** - Cold, cruel, harsh, mean, rude, and unsympathetic.
 - 1. Study of the Kindness of God - (Is. 54:7-55:7, Joel 2:11-13, Jonah 4:1-4, Eph. 2:1-7, Tit. 3:1-7)
 - 2. The walked out Kindness of Jesus -(Luke 5:12-15, 6:31-36, 17:11-19)

II. Content (Sufficient and Satisfied in Identity)

- Love does not envy... (1 Cor. 13:4)
 - A. Envy can be defined as desiring either the identity or possessions of another in hopes of feeling content. It is often linked to the hope of bettering ourselves through gaining some type of advantage (finance, fame, relational, etc.). When we are operating in envy, we will resent our own identity or situation along with resenting the identity or situation of another. Often times, fallen human relationships are sought out and maintained through envy. God's love is free of envy and is pure in all intentions and motivated from a place of total contentment.

- B. God is self-sufficient and is perfectly and permanently content in His identity and situation. He does not need a relationship to be fulfilled, and He does not harbor resentment toward those who do not respond to His love. He did not create and seek us out for any kind of advantage to Himself.
- C. Many people misunderstand the jealousy of God, and they mistake it for envy. Biblically, Godly jealousy is an unending desire for the fullness of love that comes from the place of perfect contentment in His identity. It is hard for us to understand this kind of longing because it is very foreign to our experience and desires.
- D. **Synonyms of Envy** - rivalry, coveting, ill will, malice, hatred
- E. **Antonyms of Envy** - friendliness, confidence, good will, liking
 - 1. The sufficiency of God-(Is. 40:28-29, John 5:26, Acts. 17:24-25, Col 1:16-17)
 - 2. In the person of Jesus- (Luke 4:1-9, John 3:35, 13:1-5)
 - 3. The jealous desire of the bridegroom-(Luke 2:14, Eph. 1:5-9, Phil 2:13, 2 Thess. 1:11)