



Pastor Heather Zempel

"Show me the wonders of your love" - [Psalm 17:7](#)

Love was the driving motivation for Jesus to come among us! - [John 3:16-17](#)

[1 Corinthians 13](#)

Greek words for love:

Eros - erotic love, sexual love, physical love.

Phileo - a kind of brotherly love or friend love.

Storge - familial love - a child to a parent or parent to a child

Agape - God is love - God exists in a community of love, a circle of relationship in Father, Son and Holy Spirit

God's action is love.

Love is who God is. Love is what God does.

[John 13:34-35](#)

Jesus also taught that **love** was the highest marker of discipleship and the defining characteristic of a follower of Jesus.

**Love is what gives us away. **

[1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#) - a more excellent way

Paul Through Mediterranean Eyes - Kenneth Bailey

Love is Patient

- it is patient with people

Patience refers to the restraint of power. It's when you have the right and ability and maybe even a really good reason to give up on someone but you choose not to.

Love is Kind - doing something useful for another person.

If patience is our posture, kindness is the action that we take.

Love requires that we leverage our power and position for the sake of others.

—Pastor Heather Zempel

Love does not Envy - Love doesn't put objects, possessions, or opportunities between us.

Love does not Boast - Love doesn't operate out of insecurity or arrogance. It doesn't seek to assign value based on comparison.

Love is not Proud

Love requires us to come into the presence of others with a joyful recognition - There you are!

Love does not Dishonor Others - Love doesn't deflate others.

Love is not Self Seeking - Love is about actively choosing someone else's highest good.

Have You Filled a Bucket Today?

Love is not Easily Angered - It's not touchy. It's not easily triggered.

Love Keeps no Record of Wrong

[1 Corinthians 4](#), [2 Corinthians 6](#), [2 Corinthians 11](#)

Love Forgives

Love does not Delight in Evil but Rejoices with the Truth

The FOUR “Love Always...”

Love Always Protects - Joseph - consistently chose the highest good of others.

Love Always Trusts - Mary - I am the Lord servants may everything you have said to me be fulfilled.

Love Always Hopes - Anna and Simeon - stay at the temple and wait for the coming of the messiah.

Love Always Perseveres - Endurance under suffering - Bookend to Love is Patient. The patience that God exhibited in the garden when everything fell apart.

TAKEAWAY: Answer this question with 1 thing specific to your situation today:
“What does love require of me?”

A PRAYER to PRAY: Father, may we live in the wonders of your love. May we be transformed by the wonders of your love. May we reflect to the world around us the wonders of your love. For those who don't have a relationship with you. Or have walked away and need to come home. Pour out your love in an irresistible way today.

For those of us who strive to be your followers, help us be patient and kind. We repent of envy, boasting, pride, self-seeking, anger, and keeping a grudge list. Help us to protect, to trust, to bless, to persevere. Come, Lord Jesus.

For more info about following Jesus, go to ncc.re/followJesus

— PRAYING THROUGH ADVENT:

TRUTH: Love is deep, immeasurable Fatherly love from God toward us and deep affection from us toward God and others.

KEY WORD: Greek: Agape - LOVE

MEMORY VERSE: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.”
-[John 15:9](#)

DAILY DECLARATION: God I receive your love, poured into my heart by the power of Your Holy Spirit ([Romans 5:5](#)). I will abide in Your love for me.

WEEKLY ACTIVATION: Turn your affections to God. Set an alarm for 3 times a day to stop in the middle of the day and say “God I give you all my affections and all my attention right now.” Your love for God will become missional love for others