

Risë Rafferty- What Love Does
Monday, August 9, 2026

1 Cor 13:4-7

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Paul focuses on the features of love—what love does and does not do. He personifies love so that we can have a glimpse of how a person filled with Spirit-driven love behaves. In his portrayal of love, Paul uses a series of verbs. For him, love is more about actions than about feelings or emotions. What, then, does love do?

1. Makrothymeo = long spirited, forbearing, patient.

2 P 3:9 – God is makrothymeo toward us (long suffering).

Eph 3:18 – describing love “may be able to comprehend (make it sound like it’s an intellectual understanding – ‘take eagerly, seize, possess’) the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.

So **long** that it’s Commitment endures through our lives, – never leave you nor forsake you (Heb 13:5),

So **deep**, it reaches us in the lowest pit, - if I dwell in the uttermost part of the sea even there shall your hand lead me and your right hand shall hold me (Ps 139:9, 10) There is no sin so deep or dark place that you have run to that His love cannot meet you there.

So **wide** encompasses the world- no one is left out- as far as the east is from the west,

So **high** – we can’t imagine what God has prepared for us, the height that He will take us to if we will receive such love.

Opposite of this long spirited, long suffering = Short. Which is actually a good one-word description of how we often deal with each other in un-loving ways.

our short hasty responses- jumping to conclusions, judgmental attitudes, I’m done, I’m outta here, that’s it ...

Makrothymeo Love in our lives is in it for the **long** haul. Outlasts grievances, gets us to the other side, here to stay, lasts through the good and bad.

Deep and abiding.

Love takes the long route to think through things, **wide** to see things from the other’s perspective, asks questions rather than quickly assuming, solutions – what is best for the other, outward facing- long arms

So **high** – our capacity to love comes from God.

2. **chrēsteuomai** = useful, Kind

So real, practical, tangible – acts of service, awareness of needs of others, eyes are open to how I can help you. Help-meet. I remember reading earlier in our marriage – make yourself indispensable to your husband.

Kindness is expressed most loudly in actions. Acts of kindness – walking in love Thoughtful of the other, notices needs.

When we love our fellow man – we will seek to be useful to them

3. Skip to v. 6 rejoices in the truth— ***synchairō*** soong kha ee ro –to sympathize in gladness, congratulate, rejoice with

Not alone. Shared experience. Perhaps one of the ultimate experiences of agape love is to be experienced in the context of community with shared passion for truth.

Rejoices with the truth. When does truth rejoice? – Jesus is the way the truth

Lk 15: 6, 9, 32 – rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost...woman who has lost one of her coins sweeps the house, searches carefully...when she find it calls her friends and neighbors... Rejoice with me for I have found the piece which I lost... prodigal son – Father is rejoicing. It's right that we make merry. but the eldest son is angry- his anger is evidence that even though he was obedient externally didn't have the soong kha ee ro love

4. Stego Pas “Bears all things”- Stego = to roof over, cover with silence

There's a quiet/ protective/ resilient/ strong Pas = all, any, every, the whole

Bears all of it – good and the bad, your beauty and your ugly, praiseworthy and the dysfunctional Cover you with His feathers- His banner over me is love.

5. Pisteuo = to have faith

Believes all things – In this home we are quick to forgive, love unconditionally, and believe the best in each other. Love has faith. Faith works by love. We think of love as a feeling but Pisteuo is not based on feeling, based on faith. This aspect of love becomes stronger as it's exercised.

6. Elpidzo = to expect

Hopes all things - refers to the belief or expectation that something good will occur-

Ro 15:13 God of hope

Ro 8:24, 25- we are saved by hope. Hope that is seen is not hope if we hope for what we see not then we do with patience wait for it. This is how the Spirit helps us in our weakness –relates to us with hope

This is one of the ways we can love our enemies. We don't have to have warm fuzzies about our enemies to have Elpidzo love for them.

7. Hypomeno = to stay under (behind), remain, persevere, fortitude

Endures all things –

the loudest demonstration of love for mankind: Jesus hypomeno (endured) the cross Heb 12:2

He owns cattle on a thousand hills yet lived a life of poverty,

He could've turned stones into bread yet He suffered hunger,

He is majesty of heaven all glory belongs to Him yet He humbled Himself and had no beauty that we should desire Him,

He is all powerful, He could've come down from the cross, yet stayed and this from love to you and me. No man takes my life I lay it down . Jn 10:18

God could've wiped this world out and carried on with life – move on, but He stayed behind with us, for us

Gottman institute has a research-based approach to relationships. Research on 1,000s of couples, 40-year partners– what most contributed to successful marriage relationships. Not about never fighting. Not shared interest, passion or perfect compatibility
Masters of repair – turn towards each other in moments of conflict– address problems
Learned how to reconnect into emotional attunement; listen and validate before offering solutions and rebuttal. Best partners show up- they endure. Not in a I'm miserable but I have to endure – no: my partner is not perfect and neither am I and in times when our imperfection rubs each other we don't stop the verbs of love. In fact we use them even more intentionally - to build intimacy over decades

Rev 14:12 Here is the endurance of the saints – Here are they who have constancy

Cry of secular song, cry of the world: I want to know what love is – I want you to show me

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.