

January 26, 2020

Ten Pictures of Love - #6

1 Cor. 13:4-6 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not act unbecomingly, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

The Greek phrase here is the term *aschemoneo*. *Schea* means our behavior and *meno* means to remain. This literally means having a behavior that would want someone to remain or stay. Jesus told His disciples in John 15:5 I Am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. Jesus was telling His disciples and us that if we want to love like He loves and bear the fruit of that love, we must “stay.” We must remain in Him and not in us.

How often I find myself wrapped up in the things around me rather than the One who made me; the One who loved me and gave Himself up for me. I’m too easily distracted by the people and issues that vie for my attention instead of focusing on the path that He has for me today. He had told His followers earlier that if they want to be His disciples, they must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him. Do you see that little word daily? This word means constant, steadfast, moment by moment. It’s like the one who is willing to focus on a fixed target. The writer of Hebrews exhorts us in Heb. 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What compelled Him to do this? He kept His eyes fixed on the goal of atoning for our sins through His sacrifice on the cross. He “stayed” in the love of God for the souls of men. We can no longer live for ourselves, but for the One who gave it all for us. Let us live this day staying in His presence and living out His love for a broken, lost, dying world of people who are looking for the hope that we have. When we do this, you will bear much fruit.

Dear Lord, thank You for dying for me so that I could live. Help me to stay in Your presence so I can live our Your love for everyone around me. I want to serve You and stay in You all day today. Help me Lord, In Jesus Name, Amen.