

January 27, 2020

Ten Pictures of Love - #7

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 *eritheia*. It means our self-seeking or selfish in nature. You might wonder how we can love others without being selfish. It is all in the spiritual instead of natural perspective. Most of the time, we choose to love because we get something out of it. Whether it is love and affection, attention, or just a good feeling, we give love with the expectation of getting it in return. Again, this is not the kind of love God has for us. He doesn't love so that He will get something in return. He just loves us, no matter what!

This is what truly blows me away about the love God gives and the love He commands us to give to others. That love cannot come from any selfishness at all because then it will be connected to how we feel or what we expect in return. Phil. 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Ultimately, our selfish nature (sinful) cannot love like God loves. It is only in His strength and by the Holy Spirit that we can love at all. Psalm 16:2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." God's love is based on pure, unconditional love. Since you have received that love, give it in return to everyone you know.

Dear Father, help me put my self to death today. Help me to love people through Your love and not my own. Help me to truly love my neighbor as myself. In Jesus Name, Amen