

January 28, 2020

Ten Pictures of Love - #8

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 *paroxuno*. It means to become exasperated, irritated, touchy or a sharpness of spirit. Does this depict someone you know? I see this guy almost every morning when I look in the mirror. At least I feel like I do. I've realized that most of the time, it is because I'm living in my spirit instead of dwelling in His Spirit. The word also carries the connotation of quick-tempered. This seems to be the picture of our society. Road rage is out of control. Families are being torn apart. Governments are moving closer and closer to control.

James 1:19-20 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Our motivations come from one of two sources; either our selfish desires or His loving ways. How many times have I transposed this verse and been slow to listen, quick to speak and quick to become angry! This should not be as we are children of the King. He has been so very patient with us! Take a moment to look up Luke 15:11-32. It is perhaps one of the most beautiful pictures of the Father's love for us. And yet, after the Father had received his son back to him, the older brother hears the celebration...vv. 25-32 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' " "My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

Dear Father, thank You for receiving me back when I had been so far away from You; trapped in my selfish world. Only Your love could do something like that. That is the kind of love I need today. Please help me love others with the same kind of love. I need You today Lord. In Jesus Name, Amen