

## RCMI L-Path Teaching (English)

2/21/2021

TITLE: The Practice Of Love, Part 1

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 13: 4-5

BIG IDEA: True love is selfless; it starts with an inner resolve and manifested in outward response.

**“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.” -1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV**

**ICEBREAKER:** Have you looked in the mirror today? What is the first thing you have noticed?

[Share it in one word]

L-Path Teaching: The Practice of Love, Part 1

**INTRO:**

- **Agape Love is “a caring, self-sacrificing commitment which shows itself in seeking the highest good of the one loved.”** Ex. Jesus Christ
- **1 Cor. 13:4-5 deals with ‘agape’ love and comparing it to the darkness in ourselves.** Each of us have our own ‘issues’ and in order for us to have a better understanding about ‘self-sacrificing’ agape love, we must learn at first how to fix our hearts.
- It will start inwardly, on our own heart issues and then outwardly, reflecting on how we interact on our relationship with others.

### **I. Love’s Inward Resolve [v.4]**

#### **A. Love Is Patient**

- The word ‘patience’ comes from the Gk. word, ‘makrothumeo’ which means ‘long suffering’ like a candle’s wick which last long.
- Patience is long-suffering, slow to anger, slow to punish, shows restraint, and does not seek revenge.
- The particular word Paul uses means to have patience with difficult people rather than having patience in difficult circumstances.

#### **B. Love Is Kind.**

Kindness is patience in action. The Greek word comes from a word meaning “useful”

- A kind person is willing to be helpful. He seeks opportunities to meet the needs of others without expecting anything in return.

#### **C. Love Is Selfless**

[V.4b, “Love does not envy, does not boast, not proud.”]

##### **1. Love Does Not Envy**

- Envy, because of selfishness [self-centered] prevents us from enjoying what God is doing for other people. When love is selfish you cannot enjoy what God is doing, you become envious of others.

##### **2. Love Does Not Boast And Is Not Proud**

Love does not boast and is not proud. These two are related, like ugly twins. They both come from selfishness and the flip side of jealousy.

- **Boasting is an outward manifestation of pride.**

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### II. Love's Outward Response [v.5]

Verse 4 deals with the resolve to love inwardly in our hearts and then you get into v.5 and it starts talking how we live outwardly.

#### A. Love Does Not Dishonor Others

- Love does not dishonors others. Love is true courtesy. It is polite, considerate, and careful for the needs and feelings of others. Love is quick to make others feel at ease. Love has good behavior!

#### B. Love Is Not Self-Seeking

- It is not selfish, does not demand its rights.
- Selfishness is the root problem of humanity; this is the opposite of love, which is self-sacrificing.

#### C. Love Is Not Easily Angered

- Your temper is a sign of what is in your heart. A bad temper is a symptom of a terrible disease within the soul. By contrast, love is good-natured, easy-going, and quick to forgive.

#### D. Loves Keeps No Record Of Wrongs

- Love does not hide a list of mistakes and harbor resentment until everything is paid for. **Love forgives.**
- True love has a bad memory of wrongs done to it.

**CHALLENGE:** Selfless love is our priority. Don't wait for the last moment before you make a move. "Pursue love" "True love is selfless; it starts with an inner resolve and manifested in outward response." -RC

### DISCUSSION/ ACTIVITY: The Love Test Checklist

PARTICULARS:	Practicing	Occasionally	Need Help
I. Inward Resolve A. Are you Patient? B. Are you Kind? C. Are you Selfless? 1. Are you envious? 2. Are you boastful or proud?			
II. Outward Response A. Are you Not Dishonoring Others? B. Are you Not Self-Seeking? C. Are you Not Easily Angered? D. Are you not Keeping a Record Of Wrongs?			

Discuss the results. Share.

**Assignment:** Train yourself to teach and guide those who need help.

Prayer concerns.