**"Love is Patient and Kind"**1 Corinthians 13:4a

**Good Morning Beloved,**

* The 1933 double eagle is a United States 20-dollar gold coin.
  + During the Great Depression, they minted almost a half-million of the coins, but they were later melted down.
    - According to Wikipedia…[[1]](#footnote-1)
      * However, 20 more are known to have been rescued from melting by being stolen and found their way into the hands of collectors before later being recovered. Nine of the recovered coins were destroyed, making this one of the world's rarest coins, with only 13 known specimens remaining—only one of which is privately owned, which is known as the Weitzman Specimen. Because the coin was never released to the public, it is illegal to privately own any of the 1933 double eagles, with the exception of the Weitzman Specimen.
        + The United States Secret Service is said to investigate reports of the existence of other specimens that come to light.
    - The two intentionally spared coins are in the U.S. National Numismatic Collection, ten others are held in the United States Bullion Depository at Fort Knox, and the one remaining recovered coin was sold in 2002 to private collector Stuart Weitzman (who remained anonymous at the time) for US$7.59 million (equivalent to $12.2 million as of 2022) —the second-highest price paid at auction for a single U.S. coin.
      * The coin sold again to an anonymous buyer at auction in June 2021 for US$18.9 million, making it the most expensive coin ever sold.
* Today, we are talking about a rare coin.
  + The 1933 has…
    - One side - Liberty holding a torch and olive branch, backed by the rays of the Sun, the U.S. Capitol visible; 46 stars circle design
    - Other side - Bald eagle in flight, backed by rays from the Sun, with motto
  + Love is an active verb… a rare treasure indeed… described like a two-sided coin.
    - One side – Patience…
      * What is patience?
        + “bearing up with whatever it takes to go on serving Christ and his body”[[2]](#footnote-2)
    - On the other side – Kindness…
      * What is kindness?
        + “… the positive side of the coin, actively doing good to those who do you harm.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

Reading of God’s Word

***13****If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.****2****And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.****3****If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

***4****Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant****5****or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;****6****it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.****7****Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

***8****Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.****9****For we know in part and we prophesy in part,****10****but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.****11****When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.****12****For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

***13****So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

**Preaching God’s Word**

1. The Loving Forbearance of the Father
   1. *Love is patient.* [[4]](#footnote-4)
      1. Instead of promoting a passion in revenge[[5]](#footnote-5)… work for peace and harmony in your family… your work… and your community.
         1. That idea… a passion for revenge comes with an internal count-down clock.
            1. Illustration: Years ago… there was a little movie called Star Wars…

When the team set down to review the film before it was released to the public… the final battle with X-wings… Death Star… laser guns… wokkies…

All the pieces were there for a climactic arch in the story… but the experience fell flat.

Until… they went back and added a few more shots… shots without the main actors…

What did they add?

They added a countdown… “how long until the rebel base was in sight… the death star is now in range.”

POINT: The director set a clock before the audience… the countdown produces the tension and the need for action… so there can be resolution.

* + 1. Impatience is being on the wrong timing in a countdown….
       1. An impatient person rushes in before the right time and is described as having a “short fuse”.[[6]](#footnote-6)
          1. In contrast to that the wisdom of love is described in Proverbs this way…

Pro. 19:11 -***11****Good sense makes one slow to anger,  
    and it is his glory to overlook an offense.*

Notice… this is not a dullness to life… if a child is drowning… you are not slow in responding… OR… when the person has a medical issue we are not like the Pharisee who has to step over the one in need (Luke 10).

* + 1. Charles Hodge – “… patiently bears with provocation, and is not quick to assert its rights or resent an injury”
  1. Why would you ever forebear actual offenses?
     1. God is forebearing with us (Matt. 18:21ff).
        1. *21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.*
        2. *23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”*
     2. If you are new to the Christian faith or just exploring religion… the Bible is clear.
        1. Romans 2 - ***4****Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?****5****But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.*
           1. The holiness of God’s love is seen in the patience exercise of his justice.

Flee to the Father now for mercy… with repentance… meaning… turning FROM living for your preferences and turn TO loving for His glory.

* 1. Transition: Because the Father has made known his love in giving His Son.

1. The Loving Kindness of the Son
   1. *Love is kind.* [[7]](#footnote-7)
      1. Unique word appearing only here in the NT and only here in ancient literature.
         1. It is another verbs that means “love shows kindness”.[[8]](#footnote-8)
            1. It is the opposite of severity, but instead restrains[[9]](#footnote-9) men to live together in a peaceable and orderly manner.
            2. Not an affection, but an action.
            3. Not an attraction, but an deed.
      2. It is saying what John said…
         1. 1 John 3:18 - *18Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth*.
   2. So what is kindness?
      1. Here is what it is NOT…
         1. From Alan Bennet - “He was kind” means ‘ he was a compliant husband who never demanded anything from his widow day or night”
         2. Nor is doing something to get something…
            1. In Iron Man 3… the kid helps Tony Stark then act like that is a bartering chip to manipulate Iron Man….

So the response comes… “If you do someone a solid, don't be a yutz, alright? Just play it cool, otherwise you come off grandiose"

* + 1. Here is what it is…
       1. Gordon Fee – “active goodness on behalf of others”
       2. Ryken – “… disposition to be useful… and freely to do good to others”
       3. Smedes – “… loves readiness to enhance the life of another person.”
       4. Thiselton – “… no faint praise, but… pure and unselfish concern for the well-being of another…”
  1. Why is it paired with patience?
     1. John Chrysostom was asked how we should respond to the angry resentments and vengeful passions of people who do us wrong.[[10]](#footnote-10)
        1. "Not only by enduring nobly," he said (that is where the patience comes in),
        2. "but also by soothing and comforting," so that we can "cure the sore and heal the wound" of a broken relationship.
        3. Someone who is "too kind" is sometimes described as "killing with kindness," but according to Scripture, it is also possible for us to cure with our kindness, bringing hope and healing to broken people.
  2. Here is where the loving Kindness of the Son shines most brilliantly…
     1. Those who belong to Jesus can say…
        1. 1 Tim. 1:16 -***16****But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.*
           1. Christ loved us… not when we were lovely but when we were pursuing other lovers….

Hosea 3:1ff - ***3****The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”*

***2****So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley.****3****Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”*

* + - 1. James Montgomery Boice writes…
         1. God loves you and me like that! We are the slave sold under the bondage of sin. We are the one placed upon the world's auction block. The bidding of the world goes higher and higher.
         2. "What am I bid for this person's soul?"
         3. At this point Jesus Christ, the faithful bridegroom, enters the slave market of sin and bids the price of His blood. "Sold to Jesus Christ for the price of His blood," says Almighty God.
         4. So He bought you. He clothed you in His righteousness. And He led you away with Himself saying, "Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man; so will I also be for thee.'"[[11]](#footnote-11)
    1. POINT: The Loving kindness of the Son drove him to the Cross so that this say you would know his mercy and your life would be full of…

1. The Life-Changing Love of the Spirit[[12]](#footnote-12)
   1. The steadfast love of God enables us to love with patience and kindness.
      1. Heidelberg Catechism 28 is something we have used many times in this church.
         1. Q. How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us?
         2. A. We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God’s hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.
      2. Resentment does not proclaim that truth.
         1. Hostility does not breath that charity.
      3. Love… real love… is only possible by faith.
         1. John Sanderson – “Our resentment is against the timetable which the sovereign God has assigned to us, a schedule based on a plan of which we are usually ignorant. It is this ignorance which brings about our frustration, the seeming senselessness of delay, loss, or failure. But this is the reason why impatience is such a noxious weed – it leaves God out of our thinking.”[[13]](#footnote-13)
      4. Love… real love… is only practiced in relationships.
         1. Lewis Smedes – “Kindness is the power to move someone self-centered toward the weak, the ugly, the hurt and to invest in personal care with no expectation of reward.”
      5. QUESTION: Why would you ever do that… live like that… love like that… act like that… daily reorient yourself to that posture?
   2. The Word of God says…
      1. Titus 3:4ff - *But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,****5****he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,****6****whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*
2. Conclusion
   1. Beloved, the 1933 double eagle is a rare coin.
      1. It would be very impressive to collectors and experts.
   2. The even more valuable treasure… is the double impression of love…
      1. Patience…. Long-fuse when provoked
      2. Kindness… seeking the others good in any situation
         1. It is the mark of True Christianity…
            1. Therefore…

Rom 12:9 - ***9****Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.****10****Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1933\_double\_eagle [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. David Jackman, *Let’s Study 1 Corinthians*, 217. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Jackman, 217. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “**μακροθῡμέω**, *to be long-suffering*, ἐπί τινι towards one, LxxSi.18.11, al., Ev.Matt.18.26; πρός τινα 1Ep.Thess.5.14. **2.** *to be slow* to help, Ev.Luc.18.7. **3.** *persevere*, Plu.2.593f. **4.** c. acc., *bear patiently*, LxxBa.4.25: imper. μακροθύμει *bear up!* Astramps.*Orac*.90.7.” - Henry George Liddell et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lsj?ref=Page.p+1074&off=11702) (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996), 1074. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Calvin, *Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians*, 422. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Anthony Thiselton, Commentary on 1 Corinthians, NIGTC. – “Genuine love for the other will wait until the other is ready, especially if love prompts a word of warning or rebuke…. Love does not blunder in, or blurt out.” [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. “**χρηστεύομαι**, to be kind or merciful, 1Ep.Cor.13.4; LxxPs.Sal.9.6.” - Henry George Liddell et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lsj?ref=Page.p+2006&off=9021&ctx=%E2%9C%AA+~%CF%87%CF%81%CE%B7%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B5%CF%85%CC%81%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B1%CE%B9%2c+to+be+kind+or+merciful%2c+) (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996), 2006. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ryken, 35. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Calvin, 422-423. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Ryken, 36. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. James Montgomery Boice, *Commentary on the Gospel of John, 201.* [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. “But how is this “love” to be understood? Paul provides an answer in the focal, central section, 13:4–7. At first sight, his characterization of love appears random, moving between the positive and the negative: “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful.…” Closer inspection, however, suggests that the characteristics of love which are stated negatively (“love is not …”) correspond with the attitudes and practices in the church of which he is critical and, conversely, that the characteristics which are stated positively (“love is …”) correspond with how he characterizes his own apostleship.”

    Stephen C. Barton, “1 Corinthians,” in Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible, ed. James D. G. Dunn and John W. Rogerson (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003), 1343. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. As quoted in *Loving the Way Jesus Loves* by Philip Graham Ryken, 82-83. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)