

LOVE DEFINED #1

By

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Love *“suffers long and is kind”*

- ***“Suffers long”***
 - Greek Word literally means “to be long tempered.” It always refers to being patient with people, not with circumstances (Barclay)
 - It’s what God has with us (Rom. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
 - It’s what we must have for others
 - Our children (2 Sam. 18:5)
 - Our brethren (Philemon)
 - Our enemies

Love “suffers long and is kind”

□ *Love is Kind*

- “Suffers long” (patience) is the attitude toward others that allows us to put up with those who may even abuse us; while kindness is an act that we do for others.
- Patience is passive while kindness is active.
- When Jesus said, “Love your enemies...” (Matt. 5:44a), He didn’t say, “Feel good about them.” He said, “...do good to them....”

Examples:

- **God is not only long suffering, but He is kind (He does for us)**
 - ▣ Titus 3:4--Paul writes, “But after the kindness and love of God, our Savior, toward man appeared.”
 - ▣ 1 Peter 2:3--“If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” The word “gracious” is the same Greek word that is translated kind.

If we were Kind

- **Think of the changes that would take place**
 - Our words would be kind to help not hurt
 - Forgiveness wouldn't be difficult
 - We would seek to bring out the very best in others

Love does not Envy

- Jealousy and envy are two words that are used synonymously, but are not synonyms.
 - ▣ Jealousy: “Resentful or painful desire for another's advantages” (Vine)
 - ▣ Envy is the “feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others.” (Vine)
 - ▣ “The distinction lies in this, that **envy desires to deprive another of what he has; jealousy desires to have the same or the same sort of thing for itself**” (Vine)

Examples

- of Envy
 - Cain (1 Jno. 3:12)
 - Older brother (Lk. 15:28-32)
- Of love (Phil. 1:18)