

Key Passage Paper

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Ministry is the essence of who we become when we become a born-again believer in the Christ. This happens because we immediately adopt the charge from Christ himself called the great commission. This commission is for us to go out into the highways and the hedges and compel those to come to Christ as we have. This commission comes along with an assistant that has been assigned to us to help carry out this mission. This assistant bears a name called the Holy Spirit. This charge by Christ and this helping hand from the Holy Spirit seems to be all one would need to carry out the mission, matriculation, and maturity of ministry. However, there is one other important ingredient that is essentially needed to operate and ministry and that is love. Love is the base ingredient on why we were given an opportunity to stand before Christ and receive this assignment to the body of Christ. The key passage that I have chosen is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NASB). I will expound on what biblical love is and what love isn't. Love is an action word and not just a feeling word and I will detail what the bible says love does and what love doesn't. Our goal as believers that's committed to ministry should be to die for ourselves and live for someone else. The only way that can be achieved is to put on the Christ like love and then we can affect the lives in this world that our paths cross just like Christ.

We must understand the basic form of love before we can absorb the biblical meaning of love. The Webster's dictionary definition that I found that would be apropos to this paper is love is without compensation and gratuitously. Love is something that can't be repaid when it is in its appropriate form. Love something that we should be gracious to do. This definition points us to what the bible says love is and gives us physical attributes of love. Love is patient, and kind. Many times, in ministry we forget that some may not move as fast as we do, or we think they should in the things of God. There will be those who will falter, and we must have this patient

trait of love operating in us to help steer them back to the right place. The greatest reminder of patience is when we think of how patient God was with us. It was his love that kept us and promoted him to extend his grace to us in our times of need. Love is action, but love is emotional, and kindness is the greatest expression of love that we can extend to anyone. The bible says in Jeremiah 31:3 that it was God's loving kindness that drawn thee. A kind word or deed can be the greatest expression of love that someone needs to get them through when they were almost at a breaking point. Now that I have talked about what love is we must see what love isn't. The key passage doesn't get all deep but very simple about what love isn't, but it simply says love is not jealous. Jealousy has been the engine that powered many to destruction in the bible. In the Song of Solomon 8:6 the bible says Jealousy is fierce as the grave. Whenever jealousy arises in one's heart they can be assured that love is absent. Ministry brings people from all walks of life into our lives and therefore love is of spiritual nutritional value ministry leaders. Love will expose jealousy when it raises its evil head. God makes it easy for us to keep love alive in us because he only gives us one emotional characteristic to look for that is contrary what he says love is. The key passage only give is one and that is jealousy. We must be vigilant because jealousy can take on many forms and we are not careful we can operate in jealousy without being aware. Then our love is weened, and we become ineffective in ministry.

The key passage really placed emphasis on what love does and what love doesn't do. The rest of the entire passage reveals actionable traits of love. I think this is God again being practical because I am reminded of that adage that actions speak louder than words. Many people will be affected by what you say to them but will be impacted more on what you do to them. The biblical love reaches beyond the emotional aspect right into the action that causes people to feel your perspective towards them. Although the key scripture talks about what love

doesn't do first I want to talk about what it does first. If we establish what love does then it will not be hard to identify what love doesn't do. The scripture says first love rejoices with truth. Love is in agreeance with anything that is true. The absence of truth means the absence of love. Love will always be the cheerleader for all that is true. Love allows us to operate and deal in ministry with integrity. Then love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Love will allow us to hang in there when circumstance say we should give up. Love will allow us to not give up on ourselves or others. Love is also one of the greatest common denominators of faith. When we hear words like believe, hope, and endure these are all indicators of faith. It takes faith to love the way God intended. Some days we can wake up and not feel like loving anyone. However, our faith kicks in and reinvigorates the love it takes to love ourselves and others. Again, the things about what love does is a short list of the things about what love doesn't do. This is strategic and intentional and leaves us no reason to operate outside of the confines of the love the bible teaches us. The scripture says love does not brag and is not arrogant. Bragging and arrogance is condescending and offensive. Love is not trying to show someone how much better you are but how equal we all are in the sight of God. Love doesn't act unbecomingly. Love should act like love was created to act. Love is patient and kind then anything outside of those confines are unbecoming. Love doesn't seek its own. Love doesn't need love back to continue to love. We must love even when those we love doesn't want to love us back. Love is not conditional upon someone else loving us. Christ loved us when we didn't love ourselves much less him, but he still surrenders his place in divinity to take on humanity for us. Love is not provoked. There shouldn't be anything that someone does that will provoke you to act outside of the will of God. If there is that moment, then we have forgotten the previous topic of what love does and bearing and enduring all things was a part of that list. We can only be

provoked when we refuse to endure or bear some sort of treatment. Love doesn't consider a wrong suffered. This denotes that love simply operates on a level of forgiveness that no matter how you are wronged its covered by the understanding of love. Lastly, love doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness. There should never be a time when we are glad to see unrighteousness prevail. It should be a burden on our hearts as believer when there is more unrighteousness around us than righteousness. If that burden doesn't exist, then we should be checking our love because biblical love will never stand for unrighteousness.

In conclusion, my key passage reveals one of the basic Christian principles that all can follow. Everything we do as it pertains to life and ministry should be measured and based in agape love. We have been reminded of what love is, and what love isn't. We also discovered what love does and what love doesn't do. We should never miss the signals that alert us to the absence of love ever again. I think I will always retain this paper as a reminder when things seem to be us of sorts to check my love. The love I have for Christ, the love I have for his people, the love I have for myself and most importantly the love I have for ministry.