

## **Love is a Behavior**

By Jacob Rodriguez

One of the most amazing truths I realized about love, is that it is more about attitude than about emotions. Biblically speaking, love is a behavior, not just the warm, fuzzy feeling you get inside. We typically associate love with how we feel, or by how often we say, “I love you.” It’s vital that we understand the true value and expression of love. In doing so, it will benefit all of your relationships. I find my definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

*“4) Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5) or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. 6) It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7) Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”*

These scriptures paint a vivid portrait of what love really is—and what it’s not. Let’s briefly look at each attribute of love.

**1. Love is Patient** – It’s enduring and tolerable. Because you love someone, you sometimes have to tolerate difficult circumstances.

**2. Love is Kind, not Rude** – Can I give you a powerful, life-changing principle? You ready? Okay, here it comes. *Be Nice*. You might think I’m joking. But seriously, us Christians sometimes struggle with being nice, having a smile, and acting hospitable. We can pray up storms, but struggle with brotherly kindness. No matter how awful your day is, being kind is a choice.

**3. Love is not Jealous** – Envy and jealousy are among the worst issues to have. They decay your joy and steal your peace of mind. Read what James 3:14-16 says about jealousy.

**4. Love is not Boastful, or Proud** – Love has a way of dissolving your ego. When God’s love gets into your heart, it humbles you.

**5. Love does not Demand** – Love isn’t demanding, or insisting. When you put demands on people in order for you to love them, that isn’t love. Love is unselfish.

**6. Love is not Irritable** – It’s not easily angered. Touchy and short-fused people struggle with loving others. We must deal with anger effectively. Ephesians 4:26 says, *“Be angry, and do not sin”*: do not let the sun go down on your wrath...”

**7. Love Keeps no record of when it has been wronged** – Stop keeping track of everything wrong that everyone does to you. Chances are, you will be offended or hurt by someone. But, let it go. With the same grace that has been given to you, freely give.

(And Finally)

**8. Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices over truth** – In short, when God's love is alive in your heart, you don't get excited about unfairness and wrong doings. You're glad about truth and justice.

Jesus never said that you have to be best friends with your neighbors, but to love them. In fact, it's a commandment. But that's another topic. So remember today, *love is more than a feeling; it's a behavior.*