

LOVE BELIEVES THE BEST

#3185 241027P

wds1687

Romans 14:10 *why do you judge your brother?*
1 Cor. 13:6 Love *finds no pleasure in injustice*
1 Corinthians 13:4 *Love is patient and kind*
John 13:34-35 *Love each other. Just as I have*
Romans 5:8 *While we were yet sinners*
Romans 8:14 *As many as are led by the Spirit*
James 2:17 *faith, if it hath not works, is dead*
Phil. 3:14 *I press on toward the goal to win*
Galatians 6:9 *Let us not be weary in well doing*

Even though we should believe the *best*, too often we believe the *worst* about someone. Big changes are needed if we do that. We need to consider our reason for even telling what we heard about someone.

NKJV Romans 14:10 *“But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother?”*

God already knows our motive—and He knows our thoughts NKJV Revelation 2:23 *“I am He who searches the minds and hearts.”*

A self-test—if the love of God is in our heart we will believe the *best* about people—love responds in that way.

If we are only interested in hearing the *worst* about others, then it is time to *confess, repent, and change* our responses.

WEY 1 Corinthians 13:6 Love *“finds no pleasure in injustice done to others.”*

The definition of *Love: An action directed to another person and inspired by our relationship to Christ and is done without any ulterior [hidden] motives.*

NLT 1 Corinthians 13:4 *“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud.”* The next verse says that love NIV *“keeps no record of wrongs.”*

A personal relationship with God is not possible without the *truth* being the very *foundation* upon which that relationship is built.

The Bible informs us of truth—NKJV John 4:24 *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

AV 1 John 4:8 *“God is love”* and He is the ultimate *source* of truth—which is often hidden or lost when a story is passed on three or four times.

Too often the truth is exaggerated to make ourselves look *better* while someone else looks *worse*.

Jesus’ *new* commandment keeps coming back to remind us John 13:34-35 NLT, *“Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”*

We give evidence of God’s love in our heart by being *patient* when faced with delays.

We *want* to be patient, but often do everything possible to avoid them. If we desire to be more patient, we will be tested until the lesson is learned.

The apostle told us to be patient and to be sure our heart attitude is right toward God and toward everyone else.

AV James 5:8 *“Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”*

Acting from love is acting in a thoughtful way toward others. It is so true that most people

will forget what we *gave* them, but never forget how we *treated* them.

Jesus had strong words for the religious leaders—they were nice to animals but showed no consideration for fellow humans.

Kindness toward others gives a glimpse of God’s love to the person on the receiving end.

If businesses treat customers with kindness, respect, and patience, should we do any less toward our family and friends?

It was said *I have never yet, felt a twinge of regret, for being a little too kind.”*

Showing a little patience and kindness can build a bridge of understanding that leads a person to Christ.

God is doing everything possible to *change* our attitudes and *save* our souls—AV Romans 5:7 *“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.”*

8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

We should always look for the *best* in others. It is our responsibility as a Christian to do that.

We have often heard that if we cannot say anything good about a person, then we should not say anything at all. AV Romans 8:14 *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”*

The Holy Spirit inspires us to see others in the best light. It is what *we* would want *them* to do for us.

We are to always *search* for the best—like: *We do not know what they are going through and they really need our prayers.*

When we hear of something, it is easy to believe the worst, but NIV 2 Corinthians 10:5 *“We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*

Also, NLT **Matthew 7:12** “*Do for others what you would like them to do for you*”—and we want others to believe the *best* about us—not jump to conclusions.

Philippians 4:8 NLT “*Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right.*” Divine love wants to believe the *best* and to do what is *right* concerning everyone. We can all choose to believe the *best* or the *worst* about someone.

We cannot know if a person believes the best or the worst until it is expressed in words or put into action.

We can have good *intentions* and believe the *best* about someone, but it must be acted out for that to be seen. “*Faith that doesn’t show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—*” **James 2:17** NLT.

Let us be an *encourager* to our fellow believers and friends. If we encouraged *one person a day*, there would be 365 more people with a positive outlook each year.

A personal relationship with Christ reveals itself in believing the *best* about others.

Whatever our primary interest is, we always find time to do what we *want* to do.

The *urgent* often crowds out the *important*. Spending time with those we love should be a priority.

Twenty years from now the work will still be there, but those moments with little ones will have vanished forever. Little ones do not *stay* little for long.

Anyone can be considered our *neighbor* as Jesus explained **Luke 10:27**. The man became a *good Samaritan* because he was willing to help someone who needed help—even though others ignored him and walked by. It is amazing what a little kindness can do.

When any opportunity is presented, we should reach out to help and be a *good Samaritan*.

As was once said: *I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness I can show, let me do it now for I shall not pass this way again.*

The Christian life is a marathon not a short sprint. Consistent training and discipline are necessary. Sin can start very small but can grow to entangle and choke the Word.

We must focus on the finish line to reach it. **Philippians 3:14** “*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenly in Christ Jesus.*”

Looking for the best in others takes discipline and self-control from the Spirit of Christ. Every day, the prayer for the Gift should be offered.

Galatians 5:22-23 NLT “*When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*”

Believing the *best* and doing the *most* for others should be continual. **AV Galatians 6:9** “*Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*”

10 *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*”

God sees the *best* in us because He *loves* us. He just wants us to love *Him* in return. And our love for Him is *shown* by our *love* for each other.

Jesus summarized all of the law and the prophets in two positive commands.

NKJV **Luke 10:27** “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*”

It is one thing not to covet what our neighbor has, and quite another to care about what the

neighbor *needs*. We should care about them in the same way we care about ourselves.

Jesus said that we should not even be angry with our brother, and we should treat our neighbor as we treat ourselves.

NLT **1 Peter 2:1-2** “*Get rid of all malicious behavior and deceit. Don’t just pretend to be good! Be done with hypocrisy and jealousy and backstabbing.*” We should *rid ourselves* of wrong attitudes.

Loving, *sharing*, and caring are opposite to jealousy. There are many *forms* of jealousy, and none are good.

Jealousy is a destructive emotion and must be overcome with God’s help and His Spirit within.

NKJV **Romans 7:24** *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

25 “*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*”

The *key* to *change* comes through Christ. Jealousy has no place in a Christian’s life. Jealousy would prevent our doing deeds motivated by love and consideration.

1 Corinthians 13:4 “*Love is patient, love is kind.*” **1 Timothy 6:6-7** “*Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*”

When we practice generosity, jealousy goes out the window. Jealousy is based on our wants and desires; Generosity is based on giving and helping others.

When our priorities are in line with God’s Word, Jealously, envy, and anger will *change* to contentment, peace, and *believing* the *best* about others!

††

www.fcgchurch.org

fcgchurch1@gmail.com

PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120

#3185 241027P