

A MORE EXCELLENT (AGAPE) WAY

I Cor 13:4-8

- 1. Long-suffering, patient**
 - a. Attitude: putting up with; riding out the storm; tolerating; waiting on God
 - b. Acts: responding judiciously, allowing time for developments, trusting in Providence
 - c. Examples: Job; Hosea; Jewish Massad tracking down war criminals & Islamic terrorists
- 2. Kind** (akin to kindred, relatives requiring care)
 - a. Attitude: helpful, loving, warm, tender-hearted
 - b. Acts: dealing with needs; serving without compensation (more than social workers)
 - c. Examples: Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, in private
- 3. Generous** (envies not)
 - a. Attitude: liberality, desiring best for
 - b. Act: complimentary stance, encouraging, providing physical/financial assistance
 - c. Examples: R.G. LeTourneau; Donald Trump
- 4. Self-effacing** (“vaunteth not itself,” does not “parade itself”)
 - a. Attitude: not thinking unduly of oneself, rightly evaluating talents, celebrating others’ gifts
 - b. Acts: focus spotlight on others, stepping aside to give others prime place
 - c. Examples: John the Baptist; K.C. Chiefs’ wide receiver re Patrick Mahomes
- 5. Down-to-earth** (“not puffed up”)
 - a. Attitude: unpretentious; humble, no “big head,” forgetful of self
 - b. Acts: doing dirty work, nursing ill, mediating disputes
 - c. Examples: Andrew brings others to Jesus; President Calvin Coolidge, Reagan at ranch
- 6. Courteous** (“doth not behave himself unseemly”)
 - a. Attitude: recognizing others’ dignity & rights; respecting traditions; heeding superiors
 - b. Acts: good manners (table, societal, educational, ecclesiastical), knightly defense of innocents
 - c. Examples: Robert E. Lee; “Gentleman Jim” Bond
- 7. Unselfish** (“seeketh not his own”)
 - a. Attitude: “God first, others second, self third,” prioritizing others
 - b. Acts: risking life to save another, “servant leaders,” foregoing “rights”
 - c. Examples: martyrs; soldiers falling on grenades; Terry & Loretta Arnholts’ daughter-in-law
- 8. Self-controlled** (equanimity, “not easily provoked”)
 - a. Attitude: calm, balanced, tough-skinned
 - b. Acts: measured discipline dealing with children & subordinates; prudent decisions; cautious leader
 - c. Examples: Dwight Eisenhower; Texas Rangers
- 9. Truth-loving**
 - a. Attitude: thoughtful, open-minded, pleased to discover deeper things; acknowledge errors
 - b. Acts: study Scriptures and contemplate creation, weigh evidence when deciding
 - c. Examples: Augustine & Thomas Aquinas; C.S. Lewis;
- 10. Plods** ahead, upward & onward (“beareth all things”)
 - a. Attitude: persistent, keeping on keeping on; plodding onward amidst difficulties
 - b. Acts: accepting difficult assignments, doing lack-luster tasks
 - c. Examples: Marie Curie; Robert Smith following Iliff Seminary difficulties
- 11. Trusts** (“believeth all things”)
 - a. Attitude: positive stance regarding past events, God’s Grace, potential goods
 - b. Acts: invests in potential goods, risks losses for sake of good outcome
 - c. Examples: Job: “yea though He slay me;” cheerleader “flyer”
- 12. Hopes**
 - a. Attitude: upward-looking, primarily re God; history a comedy, not tragedy; optimistic
 - b. Acts: in view of Heaven, ever encouraging, investing in permanent things
 - c. Examples: Broncho fans!! youthful newly-weds
- 13. Perseveres**, endures
 - a. Attitude: never say never; courageous; “when you run out of fantastic, persevere”
 - b. Acts: despite failures overcoming
 - c. Examples: Thomas A. Edison; Heinrich Schliemann digs up Troy