



# TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**

*1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

## Who Loves Like That?

You can find “stand-ins” at amusement parks, zoos, and museums. “Stand-ins” are basically large pictures with holes cut out of them. The holes are cut out so you can put your face into the picture and become a part of it. For example, let’s say there is a picture of a princess kissing a frog. If you pressed your face up to the picture and a friend did the same, one of you would look like a princess and the other like the kissed frog.

In 1 Corinthians 13, God shares a beautiful picture of love. He describes love like it’s a person—telling what love looks like, how love thinks, and how love acts. But as he does so, he doesn’t use any names or show any faces. It’s almost like he wants you to put your face in the picture or to substitute your name in the description. Try it out. Read the verses again and read your name where you see a blank.

\_\_\_\_\_ is patient, \_\_\_\_\_ is kind. \_\_\_\_\_ does not envy, \_\_\_\_\_ does not boast, \_\_\_\_\_ is not proud. \_\_\_\_\_ is not rude, \_\_\_\_\_ is not self-seeking, \_\_\_\_\_ is not easily angered, \_\_\_\_\_ keeps no record of wrongs. \_\_\_\_\_ does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. \_\_\_\_\_ always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Do you match the description? Are you always patient and kind with the people in your life? Do you always keep from being rude or absorbed in yourself in your relationships? Do you erase the records of others’ wrongs against you? Do you match the description?

We all have to say, “No, I don’t.” But the answer is, “Yes, you do.” Let’s be clear; your name doesn’t fit the description because of anything YOU have done, but because of everything Jesus has done. Jesus is the only one who perfectly matches the description of love. Read the paragraph with the blanks again. Only this time substitute Jesus’ name. Jesus is patient and kind. Jesus never envied, boasted, easily got angry, or kept record of wrongs. But remember why he did it. Because you can’t! Jesus did these things as your substitute and then he substituted his life for yours on a cross.

By faith, that perfect record of Jesus’ love is your perfect record of love. Through his Word and in his Supper, Jesus fills you with his love and that love spills over into your life. People will see your patience, kindness, and selflessness and think, “You are a loving person.” Jesus has made you a part of the picture! But you know what’s going on. Though it’s your face they see, it’s Jesus’ love at work. In you and through you!

### Prayer:

**Jesus, continue to fill my heart with your love and let it spill over in my life. Amen.**