

LXXXVII. YOU ARE NOTHING WITHOUT LOVE: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

INTRODUCTION.

- **Concerning the Covid vaccine, Pope Francis said,**
"Getting vaccinated is an act of love."
 - **In order to promote the degeneracy of LGBTQ issues, Kamala Harris said,**
"The fight for equal rights is an expression of our love..."
 - **Actress Busy Philipps said,** "Abortion is an act of love and kindness."
 - **We have all surely heard people say something to the effect of,** "It is not my job to judge someone. It is my job to love them." *This is typically weaponized against faithful Christians who are exposing the evil works of darkness, like we are commanded to in Ephesians 5:11.*

Q. Why do these people say these things and think it carries any weight or should have any effect on us? **A.** Because of what God says about *LOVE* through Paul in the first half of our passage of Scripture for today:

DOCTRINE. Because it is the pinnacle of the Christian life, you are nothing, and you profit nothing, without love.

CON(TEXT). **1 Corinthians 12:31** "And I will show you a still more excellent way." The context is *Love*. Love is the more excellent way. Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-7**.

OUTLINE.

I. If you do not have love, you are nothing and profit nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

With three specifics of which to make note.

II. God defines love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

With fifteen specifics of which to make note.

I. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE LOVE, YOU ARE NOTHING AND PROFIT NOTHING (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy

gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

I) You may have extraordinary *Gifts* but if you do not have love, you are simply loud and proud (1 Corinthians 13:1).

1 Corinthians 13:1

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."

BOYS AND GIRLS

USE FOR EXAMINATION

Q. Are you a noisy gong or a clanging symbol?

II) You may have extraordinary *Graces* but if you do not have love, you are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:2).

1 Corinthians 13:2

"And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

BOYS AND GIRLS

USE FOR EXAMINATION

Q. Are you anything?

III) You may *Sacrifice* extraordinarily but if you do not have love, you profit nothing (1 Corinthians 13:3).

1 Corinthians 13:3

"If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

BOYS AND GIRLS

USE FOR EXAMINATION

Q. Are you profiting anything?

Because it is the pinnacle of the Christian life, you are nothing, and you profit nothing, without love.

TRANSITION.

There is the first half of our passage for today. I. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE LOVE, YOU ARE NOTHING AND PROFIT NOTHING (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Now the second half is just as crucial. Why? Because almost everyone agrees

with verses 1-3, even those who hate Jesus. And this is a subtle trick played by the enemies of Christ:

Those who hate Christ both accept and promote the truth "without love we are nothing," yet they change the definition of love and use it as both a shield and a weapon to fight against the body of Christ.

I) When Christians call for people to repent of sin and believe the gospel, those who hate Christ use their false definition of Love as a shield, and say we are being unloving.

WHEN ANTI-CHRISTS WANT US TO STOP DOING SOMETHING, THEY SIMPLY SAY IT IS UNLOVING. This is the shield.

II) When Christ-haters want Christians to do something that Christians do not want to do, because their consciences are bound to the Scriptures, those who hate Christ use their definition of Love as a weapon, and tell us that "if we were truly loving, we would do this."

WHEN ANTI-CHRISTS WANT US TO START DOING SOMETHING, THEY SIMPLY SAY IT IS LOVING. This is the weapon.

Again, those who hate Christ both accept and promote the truth "without love we are nothing," yet they change the definition of love and use it as both a shield and a weapon to fight against the body of Christ.

Therefore, what you and I need is to understand what Love truly is, so we can think, feel, and act accordingly. The good news is **GOD DEFINES LOVES.**

BOYS AND GIRLS, You and I need to know what love is! And God defines love.

II. GOD DEFINES LOVE (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Now, you can use each of these for examination, for rebuke, for instruction, or for warning.

I. Love is patient and long-suffering (1 Corinthians 13:4a).

1 Corinthians 13:4a

"Love is patient"

BOYS AND GIRLS

II. Love is kind and friendly (1 Corinthians 13:4b).

1 Corinthians 13:4b

"and kind;"

– **THOMAS WATSON:**

"Love has not only a smooth tongue, but a kind heart."

— Thomas Watson. *All Things for Good*.

III. Love does not envy nor become jealous (1 Corinthians 13:4c).

1 Corinthians 13:4c

"love does not envy"

IV. Love does not boast nor brag (1 Corinthians 13:4d).

1 Corinthians 13:4d

"or boast;"

V. Love is not arrogant nor prideful (1 Corinthians 13:4e).

1 Corinthians 13:4e

"it is not arrogant"

BOYS AND GIRLS

VI. Love is not rude nor inappropriate (1 Corinthians 13:5a).

1 Corinthians 13:5a

"or rude."

VII. Love does not insist on its own way nor seek its own benefit (1 Corinthians 13:5b).

1 Corinthians 13:5b

"It does not insist on its own way;"

BOYS AND GIRLS

VIII. Love is not irritable nor easily provoked nor easily offended (1 Corinthians 13:5c).

1 Corinthians 13:5c

"it is not irritable"

IX. Love is not resentful nor does it keep a record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:5d).

1 Corinthians 13:5d

"or resentful;"

X. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing nor injustice nor any kind of iniquity (1 Corinthians 13:6a).

1 Corinthians 13:6a

"it does not rejoice at wrongdoing,"

This is the proverbial nail in the coffin for those Christ-haters

who try to use their false definition of love as a shield or a weapon against us. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing.

- *Those who support abortion and call it love are evil.*
- *Those who try to get you to put heavy metals, formaldehyde, and abortive fetal tissue in your body in the name of love are wicked.*
- *Those who celebrate sexual degeneracy and say things like "love is love" are Christ-haters who need to be saved, not listened to.*
- *Those who say it is unloving to boldly and plainly speak the commands of God and require that we should obey them, truly just hate the Law of God and the God who revealed that Law.*

Love is not whatever you say it is. And if what you say is love is rejoice in or promoting or celebrating or approving of or minimizing what God calls sin, then you are a deceiver of the worst kind.

Christians, you have to stop letting those who hate Christ use a false definition of love as a shield and a weapon against us.

The next time someone tries to weaponize Love against you, say, "Those spells do not work on me anymore. You have no power here."

XI. Love rejoices when the truth is spoken or lived in harmony with (1 Corinthians 13:6b).

1 Corinthians 13:6b

"but rejoices with the truth."

XII. Love bears all things, especially burdens for other's good (1 Corinthians 13:7a).

1 Corinthians 13:7a

"Love bears all things,"

XIII. Love believes all things, especially giving the benefit of the doubt (1 Corinthians 13:7b).

1 Corinthians 13:7b

"believes all things,"

- **HUGH BINNING:** "Love 'thinks no evil.' Love is apt to take all things in the best sense: If a thing may be subject to divers acceptations, love can put the best construction on it." — Hugh Binning. *Christian Love.*

XIV. Love hopes all things, confidently expecting future salvation (1 Corinthians 13:7c).

1 Corinthians 13:7c

"hopes all things,"

XV. Love endures all things calmly and bravely, especially ill-treatment (1 Corinthians 13:7d).

1 Corinthians 13:7d

"endures all things."

USE FOR EXHORTATION

You are nothing and profit nothing without love. Therefore give yourself to loving others in the ways that God defines love!

CONCLUDING EXHORTATION.

Love one another as Christ has loved you.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

BOYS AND GIRLS

USE FOR COMFORT

Now, I told you that you can use each of these for examination, for rebuke, for instruction, or for warning. But you can also use these truths for Comfort if you belong to Christ, because He has perfectly loved you and always will.

THINK OF CHRIST'S LOVE FOR YOU, CHRISTIAN, ESPECIALLY IN HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY.

- Christ was patient.
 - Christ was kind.
 - Christ did not envy.
 - Christ did not boast.
 - Christ was not arrogant.
 - Christ was not rude.
 - Christ did not insist on his own way.
 - Christ was not irritable.
 - Christ was not resentful.
 - Christ did not rejoice at wrongdoing.
 - Christ rejoiced with the truth.
 - Christ bore all things.
 - Christ believed all things.
 - Christ hoped all things.
 - Christ endured all things.
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TEXT WORK

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love,

ginomai

I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers,

I have become

and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith,

so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,

but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude.

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Benefit (profit) + useful

Agapē makrothymōs chresteuomai agapē OU zēloō ou perperomai OU physioō ou aschēmoneō

Long suffering benevolent adu. zealous adu. brag adu. Puffed up adu. / to act
patient in bearing offences + injuries friend (a) generous c.f. Jm 4:2 self-elevation sinful pride unbecomingly

OU zēteō heautōu OU paroxynō logizomai kakos inflated inappropriate
adu. seeks its own / per, poss, pro easily provoked ("keeps no record of wrongs") easily offended ("take into account a wrong suffered") disgraceful

OU chairō epi adikia de sygchairō ho alētheia
adu. celebrate prep. unrighteousness conj. def. those thoughts and actions in harmony w/ divine truth
approve w/ joy injustice, iniquity

agapē stegō pas pistevo pas elpizō pas hypomēnō pas
adu. holds out bears burdens Benefit of the doubt Confidence in the goodness of others to wait for salvation w/ joy + full of confidence bear bravely and calmly, especially ill-treatment

HELPS

[https://www.digitalpuritan.net/Digital%20Puritan%20Resources/Manton%2C%20Thomas/The%20Complete%20Works%20of%20Thomas%20Manton%20\(vol.18\)/\[TM\]%20A%20Sermon%20on%201%20Corinthians%2013.4-8.pdf](https://www.digitalpuritan.net/Digital%20Puritan%20Resources/Manton%2C%20Thomas/The%20Complete%20Works%20of%20Thomas%20Manton%20(vol.18)/[TM]%20A%20Sermon%20on%201%20Corinthians%2013.4-8.pdf)

PURITAN QUOTES

- **JOHN OWEN:** "The love of God is like himself—equal, constant, not capable of augmentation or diminution; our love is like ourselves—unequal, increasing, waning, growing, declining. His, like the sun, always the same in its light... ours, as the moon, has its enlargements and straightenings." — **John Owen. *Communion with God.***
 - **HUGH BINNING:** "Love 'thinks no evil.' Love is apt to take all things in the best sense: If a thing may be subject to divers acceptations, love can put the best construction on it." — **Hugh Binning. *Christian Love.***
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STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening / Big-Picture Questions

1. The sermon opens with several examples (Pope Francis on vaccines, Kamala Harris on LGBTQ issues, Busy Phillips on abortion, and the common phrase "It's not my job to judge—just love them"). Why do people so often appeal to "love" to support things the Bible calls sin? What does the sermon say is the root reason this tactic works?
2. The main doctrine is: "*Because it is the pinnacle of the Christian life, you are nothing and you profit nothing without love.*" How does this truth both humble us and motivate us?
3. The sermon contrasts the world's false definition of love (approving anything, never judging) with God's definition. Where have you seen the false definition used as a "shield" or a "weapon" against Christians?

Section 1: If You Do Not Have Love, You Are Nothing (vv. 1-3)

1. Paul uses hyperbole in verses 1-3 (speaking in tongues of angels, understanding all mysteries, giving away everything, even dying as a martyr). Why does he exaggerate like this? What point is he driving home to the Corinthian church—and to us?
2. The sermon says verse 1 was especially cutting for the Corinthians

because they prized showy gifts. How can even good things (spiritual gifts, knowledge, sacrifice) become worthless? Share a personal example or observation.

3. The preacher asks adults to examine themselves: "Are you a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal?" What would it look like in everyday life to be "loud and proud" without love?

Section 2: God Defines Love (vv. 4-7)

1. The sermon lists 15 characteristics of love. Why is it so important that *God* defines love rather than culture, feelings, or our own preferences?
2. Go through several of the attributes and discuss:
 - **Love is patient / longsuffering** and **Love endures all things**: How does this apply to relationships in the local church when others offend or wrong us?
 - **Love is kind / friendly**: Why is this such a "low bar" yet so powerful? How can we grow in simple friendliness?
 - **Love does not envy or boast / is not arrogant**: Where do comparison, bragging, or pride show up in your life or in the church?
 - **Love does not insist on its own way**: Share an example of when insisting on your own way damaged a relationship.
 - **Love keeps no record of wrongs / is not resentful**: Why is this so freeing? What practical steps help us truly forgive?
 - **Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth**: How should this shape how we respond to sin in culture and in the church?
3. The sermon warns that many professing Christians are duped by a false definition of love. How can we guard ourselves and our church from this deception?

Section 3: Application and Motivation

1. The preacher ties everything back to Christ's love (John 13:34 — "as I have loved you"). How does meditating on Christ's patient, sacrificial, forgiving love empower us to love others?
2. Samuel Rutherford story and the "11th commandment": How does Christ's example make love a "new commandment"? What changes when we ask, "How has Christ loved me?"
3. Self-examination: Using the 15 attributes, which 2–3 areas of love do you most need to grow in right now? What specific step will you take this week?
4. The sermon encourages us to use these verses for **examination, rebuke,**

instruction, warning, and comfort. Which one do you need most today, and why?

Group Application & Prayer

1. How can our group (or local church) better reflect biblical love as the "more excellent way"? Brainstorm 1–2 practical ideas (encouragement, bearing burdens, rejoicing with truth, etc.).
 2. Close by praying through the sermon's closing prayer. Ask God to make us a loving people who reject false definitions of love and live out His definition for His glory.
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SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Concerning the COVID vaccine, Pope Francis said, "Getting vaccinated is an act of love."

In order to promote the degeneracy of LGBTQ issues, Kamala Harris said, "The fight for equal rights is an expression of our love." Actress Busy Phillips, who was more famous in the 90s, I guess, she said, "Abortion is an act of love and kindness." And we have all surely heard people say something to the effect of, "It is not my job to judge them. It is my job to what? To love them."

This is typically—that last one—weaponized against faithful Christians when they are pointing out something evil like Ephesians 5:11 says, "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." And when Christians are trying to be faithful to that or just point out something that God says is sin that I should repent of, you should repent of, that gets weaponized against us. Like it is not our job to judge me. Well, it is our job to love them. And the subtle thing is that love is just approving of anybody's choices no matter what.

The question that we need to ask though, if you do not know that exists, that does. That is everywhere. But why do these people say these kind of things and think that it carries any water? It carries any weight. Why do they say, why does Pope Francis when a bunch of us are like, "Yeah, I am not getting the COVID vaccine." It is like, "Oh, you got to because it is how you love your neighbor." Or people are like, "Yeah, I think LGBTQ stuff is moral sexual deviancy. I do not want any part of that. It is evil." It is like, well, actually, it is a way that we love. Why do they do that? It is because of the first half of our text of Scripture for today because they take what God's word says and try to flip it around and change it and weaponize it against you and against me. They say those kind of things. Pope Francis says that. Kamala Harris says that. Busy Phillips says abortion is an act of love. Like why is that their argument? It is because in verses 1 through 3 of 1 Corinthians 13 through Paul, **God says, "If you do not love, you are nothing and**

you profit nothing. You are nothing without love. If you do not love others, the specific context of 1 Corinthians 13 is not just like love for God. That is crucial and important as well. Paul in Paul's mind, it is more about love for the brothers, love for other people. And the context of 1 Corinthians 13 is right in the middle of Paul dealing with the church at Corinth and their abuse and misunderstanding and misapplication of spiritual gifts. They made a really big deal about speaking in different languages and having that spiritual gift. But he is exposing now that they were not loving one another. So he says at the end, you can see it at the end of chapter 12, "I will show you a still more excellent way." They were all about spiritual gifts and they all wanted the most showy and flashy gifts for their own self-aggrandizement. And Paul is saying, "Earnestly desire the higher gifts, the gifts that will most help you become more like Jesus, but I will show you a still more excellent way." And then it goes to chapter 13. It is all about love. So that is what he is doing here. He is showing them that love is the more excellent way. If you do not have love, you are nothing. And that is why that truth is why it gets weaponized against us because they know the devil knows that you and I must love. That is the chief command to love our neighbor as our self as it pertains to other people. Love. Love is the fulfillment of the law. Love others as I have loved you. No greater love. There is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends. All of that permeates the Scriptures and so they weaponize it against us. But the second thing that you actually learn in this passage is not just if you do not have love, you are nothing. The second thing, and the really crucial thing we need to learn is that God defines love. So the first half of this passage, verses 1-3, is why love gets made such a big deal about even by those who do not love Jesus. They try to push it on us. But what we need is not just verses 1 through 3 to see without love I am nothing. We need verses 4-7 wherein through Paul God defines love. Because the problem today with love getting pushed on us and like crammed down our throat or trying to manipulate Christians to do certain things, it is a false definition of love that they are trying to impose on us. So we need God's definition of love. But we also need to understand that without love for our neighbors, we are nothing.

So the doctrine of these seven verses is this. *Because it is the pinnacle of the Christian life. You are nothing and you profit nothing without love.* If you are not a loving person, you are a useless person. That is what Paul is saying. If you are not a loving person, you are a useless person. There are two main things. Verses 1 through 3, you do not have love, you are nothing, and you profit nothing. And then verses 4-7, God defines love. And we need his definition. So, let us look at those two things in turn. You need to know there is this first thing. If you do not have love, you do not even need a whole lot of explanation on these first three verses because it is metaphorical. I mean, he just puts it up there. It is very easy to understand. But you need more explanation and application for verses 4-7 because look at me. He lists 15 different things in verses 4-7 concerning what love is and is not. There are 15. And so in this first thing, I will draw your eyes to these three specifics. And then in the second thing, we learn that God defines love. In

verses 4 through 7, there are 15 things you need to make note of and make sure that you understand each one of them. So let us move forward with that in mind.

First verses 1-3. **If you do not have love, you are nothing and profit nothing.** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain or profit nothing. He is using what we call hyperbole.

The tongues of men and of angels. That is hyperbole. If I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries, is that possible? Not for a human. If I have all knowledge, is that possible? Not for a human. No. It is hyperbole. If I give away all I have and deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. He is exaggerating. He is using hyperbole to show us these things.

First in verse one, ***you may have extraordinary, miraculous gifts, but if you do not have love, you are simply loud and proud.*** You may have extraordinary gifts. Verse one is the most cutting for the church at Corinth because they loved the showy, flashy spiritual gifts, even the gift of languages that was still in operation in the first century. They loved that. And Paul is just saying, "Great, you can have like the most extreme gift, most extraordinary language ever you could even fathom. And you do not have love, you are just loud and proud. You are just annoying." That is what he is getting at. I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. Boys and girls, look up here at me. Paul says in verse one, look if you have your Bible, look at verse one. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. Boys and girls, what if we are gathered here together right now? We are trying to listen to the word of God being preached. Then afterwards, Pastor Brandon is going to come up and explain to us that we are going to come to the Lord's table. Everything that we are doing, we are trying to sing songs. We are trying to pray. What if someone comes to church and just is marching around and every 30 seconds they just get in front of you? Do that. Really cool. Everyone should look at you and see what you have got. And Paul says, "Boys and girls, that is what you are like. You are like a person walking around clanging really loud cymbals if you do not love other people. If you do not love people, you are just like an annoying person walking around clanging cymbals, being loud, and so everyone looks at you. You are not helping anyone. You are not glorifying God. You are just trying to have everybody look at how cool you are. And you are really not that cool." That is what Paul is saying. You may have extraordinary gifts, but you do not have love. You are simply loud and proud. So I ask you, all of you adults especially, examine yourself. Are you a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal? Are you a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal?

Look secondly in verse two. ***You may have extraordinary graces, but if you do not have love you are nothing.*** Extraordinary graces from God. Prophetic powers understand all mysteries and all knowledge. And if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but have not love, I am nothing. You may have extraordinary graces, but if you do not love other people, you are nothing. So he says, I am

nothing at the end of verse two. He says, I profit nothing. At the end of verse three, I am nothing because I have got all these graces from God. But if I do not love especially the brethren, those other believers that I am around that are in my congregation, even especially, that is who he is writing to, the church at Corinth. If you do not love your brothers and sisters in Christ in your congregation, you are nothing. He uses an existential word, a word about your existence. You are nothing. You think you are great because of all the graces that you may have. You are nothing.

Look, thirdly, at verse three. "And if I give away all I have," this implies giving it away to those in need. If I give away everything that I possibly have and "if I deliver up my body to be burned" means dying for faithfulness to Christ. I give away all of my possessions to those in need. And if I finally die being martyred for Christ, but if I do not have love, I gain nothing. Adults, another way to think about that is we are told to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where thieves do not break in and steal, where moths do not destroy, no rust. But Paul is saying, if you are laboring to lay up treasures in heaven by your good works, by giving, being generous, by sacrificing, but it is not from a motivation of loving other people, you profit nothing. There is no profit. You are not storing up anything in heaven if you do not have love. The point is ***you may sacrifice extraordinarily, but if you do not have love, you profit nothing.*** So because it is the pinnacle of the Christian life, you are nothing and you profit nothing without love.

There is the first half of our passage for today. There it is. Plain, easy to understand. But the second half is just as crucial. Many people need to hear that first half. And we all have to hear the second half. Many people need to be rebuked that like you may have all these gifts, graces, you may be sacrificial, but if you are not loving, you are still nothing. Still profit nothing. And I think many of us go, "Yes, I get that. I want to love. I want to love God. I want to love my neighbor. I want to love my brothers and sisters in Christ." And so what we really need, what we all have to have is the second half of this text for today. Because almost, as I exemplified to you earlier in my introduction, almost everyone agrees with the main points of verses 1 through 3. Those who hate Christ agree with the points of verses 1 through 3. You do not have love. All you need is love. If you do not have love, what is the point? Almost everyone agrees with the main point of verses 1 through 3. Even those who hate Jesus. And this is a subtle trick played by the enemies of Christ. Listen to me. Those who hate Christ both accept and promote the truth. Without love, we are nothing. They accept that. They promote that. Yet they change the definition of love and use it as both a shield and a weapon to fight against the body of Christ. When Christians call for people to repent of sin and believe the gospel, those who hate Christ use their false definition of love as a shield. Protects them. They use it as a shield and they say you are being unloving. "Repent." Shield. "You are being unloving." When antichrists want us to stop doing something, they simply say that thing you are doing is unloving. That is the shield. You need to understand these tactics. That is a very easy way when they want you to stop doing something. All they have to do is say, "You are being unloving." And

many Christians fall for it. So, they are like, "Well, I guess at best I will just be quiet." That is the shield they use with their false definition of love. Also, when Christ haters want Christians to do something that Christians do not want to do because their consciences are bound to the Scriptures, those who hate Christ use their false definition of love not as a shield but as a weapon. And they tell us, "If you were truly loving, you would do this." So, when they want you to stop, they say, "What you are doing is unloving." When they want you to start doing something, they say, "If you are really loving, you will do this." That is the weapon. That is the sword. Again, those who hate Christ both accept and promote the truth. Without love, we are nothing. Yet, they change the definition of love and use it as both a shield and a weapon to fight against the body of Christ. Therefore, what you and I need is to understand what love truly is.

So we can think, feel and act accordingly. And the good news for us is that God actually defines love. He defines it. And even right here in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, he gives us 15 marks of what actual love is. So God defines love. And you and I need to know what it actually is. If without it we are nothing and profit nothing, then we need to actually know what the it is. And you are not permitted to have your own definition of what love is. You probably have multiple things in your mind and in your actions right now that I think this is the most loving thing that is probably way wrong. Most people do. They do not do what they should sometimes out of love. It is like, yeah, that is not loving. They do things they should not do, promote things they should not promote, accept things they should not accept, and they will say, "Well, I am just being loving." And it is like, "Nope, that is not loving." So, you and I need to be very careful about what we call love. And we have to make sure that it is God's definition of love, not ours, not the world's, but God's. And this is what he says, verses 4-7. Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Now, as I move through each of these individually, I am not going to pause and use them for application, but you need to know all 15 of these. You can use them for examination, each one of them. So, you can look at this and examine yourself. Am I loving according to this definition? If the answer is no, confess it. Ask God to forgive you for Christ's sake and ask him to enable you to actually love by for instance being patient or kind. So you can use all these for examination. You can use them for rebuke to rebuke yourself because you might think you are being loving and then it is like oh wow I am doing the opposite of that. So you might need to be rebuked. Use all of them for instruction, for your learning, for doctrine, and use them all. You can use all of them for warning as well. If this is not you, or if you are the opposite of one of these, he is saying you are not loving, you are nothing, you profit nothing. So, you can use all of them for examination, for rebuke, for instruction, for warning. But I am not going to pause and do that for each of them. So we will just have to trust that the Spirit will enable you to do that and to apply these as we should.

First look, **God defines love.**

First he says **love is patient**. Love is patient. This means love is patient and longsuffering. It is not simply look at me. It is not like the stoplight will not turn green or it does turn green and the person in front of you will not go and you just get angry. Yeah, that is impatience, but that is not what this word is really getting at. It is talking about being longsuffering. That is the old translation and it actually gets at the heart of what the Greek word is even more. It means that you are able to suffer to be patient in bearing offenses or injuries from others. It is not just talking about being patient in general. Patience is a virtue. Yeah. But he is talking about being long-suffering when another Christian offends you or injures you. Being patient while you are suffering. That is what love looks like. Love looks like being able to take offenses to have someone wrong you and be okay. You are able to suffer long. Love is patient. It is longsuffering.

Love is next he says kind. **Love is kind**. It means it is seriously this is the simplest way you can understand this word in the Greek. "Love is friendly." It is friendly. Love is kind and friendly to other people. It means benevolent, friendly, generous, someone that you want to be around because they are friendly. Boys and girls, look up here at me. You need to learn this very early on in your life and you need to put it into practice. If other people do not want to be around you, it is your fault. If other people do not want to be your friend, it is not their fault. If people do not want to be around me and be my friend, it is not their fault. It is mine. If you have not learned this yet, you need to know. If you are not kind and friendly to other people, they will not want to be your friend. It is a really adults, you know, but children, you need to learn this. It is a super low bar. If you are just not nasty to other people, you are going to have a ton of friends. You do not even have to talk that much. I was talking with Pastor Nate about this the other day and we had a friend in high school that everybody loved this guy. Everybody loved him. Why? He was just friendly, pretty kind, and he barely even spoke. Like they did not like this guy was like, "Man, he has got really good insights and I really like being friends." No, he just did not even talk very much. But everyone is like, "I really like this guy." He is like, "Why? The bar is super low for being kind and friendly. Just do not be nasty. Just be friendly to other people. Boys and girls, if you want to love other people, it looks like just being kind, being friendly to others. And if you will do that, that is how you love people. Adults, these are super low bars. Being kind and friendly, that is loving. Thomas Watson said, "Love has not only a smooth tongue, but a kind heart to other people." So, love is kind. Love is friendly.

Third, look what he says. **Love does not envy**. Love does not envy. That means "does not get jealous of someone else." Love does not envy others. But love, the opposite of that is love sees something good that someone else has or good that someone else does and you are not jealous of it or want it. It is, hey, good for you. That is great. I am happy for you. I am glad that worked out well for you. Someone gets a raise at their job and you go, "Man, that is awesome." And you are not thinking, "I wish I got a raise." or whatever it may be, anything like that, something good. And it is like, man, good for you. I am so happy for you. That is love. Love does not think about myself first. Love thinks about you first. Says, "Excellent. It is

not jealous. It does not envy."

The next he says, the next part of verse four, "**Love does not boast.**" This is a word that literally just means to brag. To brag about yourself. Love does brag on others, brags on Christ, boasts on Christ, praises the good they see in others. But the point that Paul is making, love does not brag or boast about yourself. Boys and girls, you need to understand this, too. This is a huge problem for all of us, especially when we are kids. And some of us do not grow out of it even into adulthood. But you really need to know this. It is a good thing that you refrain that you do not talk about how good you are, how great you are, or something great that you have done. Just do not do it. The Proverbs say, "Let another person praise you." That means we do not praise ourselves. We do not tell people how awesome we are or something cool we have done or try to do it in a sneaky way and it is like, "Oh yeah, I actually did this the other day." But what you are really thinking is, "I really want them to know how awesome I am." Nobody likes that, first of all. It does not work. And it is not loving. It is not loving to brag about yourself or to boast about yourself. It is loving to boast about Christ. It is loving to praise someone else. You see something good in someone else and you point it out and say, "Man, that is great. Good job." That is a loving thing to do. But to do that for yourself overtly or covertly is not loving. Adults, love does not brag. Love does not boast.

Fifthly, look at the next part of verse four. He says, "**Love is not arrogant.**" Love is not arrogant. This is sinful pride. This is being the word literally means to be puffed up like a blowfish. You are actually this size, but you try to inflate yourself and make yourself look big. Love does not do that. Love is not arrogant. Love is not prideful. Love considers others first. Does not really think about do they think I am cool, do they think I am righteous, do they think this? All concerned about yourself. No, love does not worry about that. Love worries about others. Love is concerned with others, not inflating your own ego or being puffed up or sinfully prideful. Love is not arrogant.

Next, sixthly, **love is not rude.** Or your translation might say love does not act unbecomingly. It is like, okay, that probably helped you a lot. What does that mean? What is the definition of unbecomingly? Well, rude is probably a better translation, but it just simply means love does not act inappropriately. Something that is inappropriate to do given the moral law of God. Love does not act inappropriately. This can be a ton of different things. Can be saying maybe the right thing but at the wrong time. It can be doing something that you should not be doing. It is unbecoming. It is inappropriate actions especially towards other people. This is why you need to have the law of God, the moral law of God as your rule, as your guide, as your standard, and you need to know it. It is like, how do I know what is inappropriate? What is outside of God's revealed will his commands? That is inappropriate. But love does not act inappropriately towards others.

Seventh, next part of verse five, he says **[love] does not insist on its own way.** It is really just love does not seek its own or insist on its own. It insist on its own way is a clearer way to translate those two Greek words. It means love is not

always trying to get their own way. That is the opposite. Love says, "So far as I can, I want to please others." Not insisting that everything has to be done my way and that my way is the right way. No, love does not insist on its own way and it does not seek its own. Can also mean it does not it is not laboring to seek its own benefit at the expense of anyone else. But it is love is seeking your upbuilding, your benefit. That is what it is to love. You know what I mean? You know those friends or acquaintances that you have had that after a certain period of time, you realize they really do not care that much if I am benefited. They are like a leech that it seems like they really just care what they can benefit from me and if I do not benefit them in the way that they want, they are gone. You have all had friends like that or acquaintances like that. It is like that is the opposite of love. The real question is, is that how you treat other people? If they do not benefit me, I do not really need to be around them. I do not want to be around them. They do not benefit me. That is not love. Love says, I exist to help you. I exist to help you. I want to benefit you. Love does not insist on its own way. It does not seek its own benefit. It is not seeking its own. Love seeks the good of others, even at the expense of yourself.

Eighth, look what he says in the next part of verse 5. **Love is not irritable.** Love is not irritable. It means easily provoked. It could mean easily offended. You get really easily offended, which provokes you to respond. You know people like this. You know people that you have to walk on eggshells around them or you are going to somehow hurt their feelings because they are irritable. They are easily provoked. That person is not loving. That is not love. Love is really hard to provoke. Love is really hard to offend. And you probably I cannot speak for you women as much because I am a man, but you men I know you have some friends like this. Your closest friends is like, I could not offend him if I tried. And you women would be shocked the things that men say to each other. You would be like, "Your friends talk to you like that?" Yeah. But that is just what it is like when you have loving friendships. You can joke with each other. You can razz each other. You can even take risks and do things that is like, "Oh, I am sorry. Like, I wronged you. I sinned against you. Please forgive me." And your friend is like, "I forgive you. Let us move on." Why? Because love. I know men and women are different, but women, you probably have friends like that, too. It is like I have given this person probably dozens of reasons to not want to be my friend anymore, but they love me and so we are still right there. That is what love is. Love is really hard to offend, really hard to provoke to anger. Love is not irritable. You do not have to walk on eggshells around someone who loves you. You have to walk on eggshells around someone who seeks their own benefit. See how those go back to back? Love does not seek its own. It is not seeking its own benefit. But if your relationship with someone and they are not loving to you or you are not loving to them, they have got to walk on eggshells around you because if they step out of line, you are really easily provoked because you are seeking your own. That is not what love is. It is not irritable, not easily provoked, not easily offended.

Next, look what he says. The next part of verse five, **love is not resentful.**

Resentful is how it is translated in the ESV. That is a great translation. You might remember if you have looked at the NIV or other translations. This is how it is remembered. This resentful part is most remembered in our society. Love keeps no record of wrongs. That is really what the word resentful is getting to. Like this person has wronged me and you are going to log that away forever and they do something else. You are going to bring it up. You are going to treat them differently because you have not actually forgiven them. Love does not keep a record of wrongs. It is not resentful. It does not resent others even when they have wronged you. Love actually forgives. That does not mean things do not necessarily need to change. That does not mean you do not need healthy boundaries. It does not mean that your relationship has to be the exact same that it had been. But it does mean you are not going to keep a record of wrongs and hold something against someone forever. You are going to actually forgive them, release them from the debt. So love is not resentful. So when someone loves you, you do not have to worry that if I mess up, if I sin against them, if I wrong them, well, our relationship is pretty much over because they are going to remember that and treat me like that forever and they are not going to be able to forgive me. Love is not like that. Does not keep a record of wrongs. Is not resentful.

Now 10th, look at the first part of verse six. ***Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing.*** What is another way you could translate that? Love does not rejoice or celebrate unrighteousness, injustice, iniquity, sin. That is what the word means. It does not mean just wrongdoing like oops. It is having to do with unrighteousness, injustice, sinful iniquity. Love in no way rejoices over something that God calls sinful. This is the proverbial nail in the coffin for those Christ haters who try to use their false definition of love as a shield or a weapon against us. Love does not rejoice at sin. Love is not promoting sin. Love is not sinning in the name of loving someone else. Beloved, hear me clearly. Those who support abortion and call it love are evil. It is not love. It is double evil to support evil things and then try to trick Christians into doing those evil things by lying to them about what love is, which is the pinnacle of our virtues. It is there is just sin on top of sin on top of sin. And you need to make sure that you do not fall for it. Those who try to get you to put heavy metals, formaldehyde and aborted fetal tissue in your body in the name of love are acting wickedly. Those who celebrate sexual degeneracy and say things like love is love are haters who need to be saved, not listened to. Those who say it is unloving to boldly and plainly speak the commands of God and require that we should labor to obey them truly they just hate the law of God and the God who revealed the law. It is unloving. I think you actually just hate God's commands. Beloved, love is not whatever you say it is. It is not whatever I say it is. And if what you say love is rejoices or promotes or celebrates or approves of or minimizes what God calls sin, then you are a deceiver of the worst kind.

Love does not rejoice, approve of, celebrate, or minimize sin. What a simple truth. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing. But that is constantly what is happening around us. And sadly, many professed believers are duped by it. You have to stop letting those who hate Christ use a false definition of love as a shield

and a weapon against you. The next time someone tries to weaponize love against you, my hope is that you would be prepared. And you would say something like, "That spell does not work on me anymore. You have no power here. You cannot play that trick. I know what you are doing. That is not loving. I reject that." Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing. Love does not rejoice with injustice or any kind of sin.

The next one he says, "But" verse six, "**[love] rejoices with the truth.**" Love rejoices with the truth. There is the 11th definition of love. Love rejoices when you think, when you speak, when you act in accordance with the truth. God's word is truth. That is what love does. But notice believers, here is the one half. Love does not rejoice, celebrate, approve of sin. Got it? But it does actively rejoice, celebrate, approve of, show the approval of when people speak or live according to the truth. So looking at someone who you have seen a mark of their growth in grace, that God has sanctified them, that they are more patient than they used to be, that they are more bold for Christ than they used to be, that whatever it may be, if you see any good in any other Christian, love rejoices in that. It says, "I see that. Praise God. Good job. Keep going." That is what love does. So, we cannot just get the first half. It is like we are forbidden from celebrating sin. Yes. But we are required if we would be loving to celebrate and rejoice and show it when someone is thinking or speaking or living according to the truth. That is a way that we should be continually encouraging one another. Love rejoices when the truth is spoken or lived in harmony with.

12th, he says at the beginning of verse 7, **love bears all things.** Love bears all things. This is what he means. Love bears all things, especially burdens for other people's good. Love sees someone through suffering, through sickness, through persecution, through sadness, depression, anxiety, whatever it may be. Love sees someone struggling and does everything they can to get low and help lift that burden with the person to bear the burden. Love bears all things especially burdens for other people's good.

Next, the 13th, mark this in the next part of verse 7, he says, "**love believes all things.**" This does not mean love is naive. This means what we call love gives the benefit of the doubt. Love does not assume the worst in especially your fellow Christians thoughts, words, or actions. Love always gives the benefit of the doubt and believes that they are doing this for a right reason. You do not immediately jump to what nefarious motive might they have in saying that. It is like I do not know, maybe they were just trying to like rejoice with the truth and then you h they trying to manipulate me or control me. Love does not do that. Love gives the benefit of the doubt. Believes all things. Hugh Binning, the Puritan said, "Love is apt to take all things in the best sense. If a thing may be subject to diverse acceptations, love can put the best construction on it." Love believes all things, gives the benefit of the doubt until they are proven otherwise. So if you want to be loving to your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, assume the best. Give them the benefit of the doubt. And that is how we love one another. Love believes all things.

Next, he says, "**Love hopes all things.**" Love hopes all things. This is the only

one to me personally that is confusing concerning what exactly it means. Hopes all things. The Greek word is *elpizō*. And it is not like we use the word hope. It is not like I hope. The word means a confident expectation of future salvation. Confident expectation of future salvation. Nothing to do with chance or I hope. Fingers crossed. I know this is going to happen. It just has not happened yet. So it is like the twin sister of faith. Love hopes all things. And it is in reference to other people. If you love other people, you hope all things. And this is what I think he means. I think he means you look at other Christians and you are confidently expecting that Jesus is going to keep sanctifying them and one day he is going to glorify them. You do not look at other Christians and be like, I do not know if they are going to make it. Love hopes all things. Confidently expecting that Jesus is not going to give up on them. And so neither will I. I confidently expect their future salvation. I think that is what love does.

Now he says lastly, **love endures all things**. Endures all things. This is different than bears all things. Bears is "bearing burdens for others good." Endures is you are just not going to stop. You are going to bear bravely and calmly. Listen, especially ill treatment from others, enduring being treated poorly by others. Adults, you have probably been treated poorly by every other adult in this room in some way. Whether it be by commission or omission, every one of us have treated one another poorly to some degree or another at some point. Not even intentionally, just because we all have indwelling sin. So love looks like enduring through any kind of ill treatment and not expecting people to be more sanctified than they actually are. I cannot believe they did that to me. Really? They are simultaneously just in Christ and still riddled with sin in their flesh. You cannot believe that they did that. I cannot believe some of the things you do. You know, when someone says that, that is maybe how you should respond. Like, I cannot believe they did that to me. If you are like, I cannot believe you did this. Are you serious? Come on. Love endures. The word has to do with enduring all things calmly and bravely, especially being treated poorly by other people. Now, I want you to go back to the first the first point of the little definition and the last point. Go to the first and the last. Both love is patient. The patient has to do with longsuffering. Patient in bearing offenses and injuries from your fellow Christians. And the last definition is enduring ill treatment. And in the context of what he is talking about to the church at Corinth, it is from fellow believers in your local church.

The first and the last have to do with being patient with one another, suffering long, realizing we are all still kind of a mess individually, and we are trying to be more like Jesus and trying to help one another grow to be more like Jesus. So, let us be patient and long-suffering and enduring even as we try to love one another the best we can, but still treat each other poorly from time to time. That is what love does. Love bears or endures all things. You are nothing and you profit nothing without love. Therefore, beloved, give yourself to loving others in the ways that God defines love.

Now, in conclusion, I just want to bring up one verse to you. And an exhortation. John 13:34, "A new commandment I give to you," Christ says, "that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." There was a time in Edinburgh, Scotland when Samuel Rutherford was still alive. He was a famous pastor in Scotland. And there was a traveling man from England who was also a famous Anglican pastor, preacher and he is traveling through Edinburgh and he is wearing a cloak and in this day Rutherford does not know this other man looks like. They know who each other are through their writings and publications, but they do not know what each other look like. And this guy is wearing a cloak trying to keep himself hidden. But he goes to Rutherford's house because it was sort of like a place that you could stay. Travelers could stay and have hospitality shown to them. So this guy enters and ends up going in and eating with the servants and eating with Rutherford's wife. And Rutherford has no idea it is this other famous preacher. And in the time of dinner, Rutherford's wife is catechizing all the servants and all the traveling people are staying with them. And the catechism had to do with how many commandments are there in the moral law of God summarized? And all people are like 10 10. And then this traveling minister said 11. And the wife looks at him and just like oh my gosh, who is this guy? He is like 11. And she just thinks he is out of his mind. Well, later that night, Rutherford was down the street at the church building and this man snuck down to the church building to get an eye on Rutherford as he was preparing to preach the next day. The next day was Sunday. He sees him praying and reading and writing and then goes in there and talks to him. And the man ends up Rutherford ends up realizing who it is and is blown away that he was staying at his house and invited this man to preach the next morning at his church. So the next morning he gets up. Rutherford introduces him. He comes up to the pulpit. The man says that the title of my sermon this morning is the 11th commandment. And Rutherford's wife is like, "That is the guy. We are letting the guy preach. He does not know it." And he quotes. He says, "A new commandment I give to you. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." He goes on to explain, yes, the moral law of God is summarized in the ten commandments, but Christ gave an additional one, a new one. And he said, and this is the sense in which it is new. We have love God, love neighbor, we have all of that already, but we did not have the example of the Lord Jesus Christ and how he has loved us. That is the sense in which Christ means a new commandment I give unto you. A new commandment I give unto you as I have loved you by going to the cross and suffering under the wrath of God. For your sins, love one another like that. As I have loved you, love others. This is the motivation for all Christians to obey as it were this 11th commandment. Not you shall be nice but love others as I have loved you. That controls everything. So beloved, love one another not just only by the definition of 1 Corinthians 13. Love one another thinking how has Christ loved me? That is how I want to love you.

I told you can use each of these for examination, rebuke, instruction, or warning. But you can also use all these truths I have pointed out to you for comfort. If you

are truly a Christian, if you belong to Christ, Christ has loved you perfectly. Think on his love for you, Christian. Especially in his earthly ministry, Christ is patient. Even in your life, Christ has been incredibly patient with you, long-suffering. Christ was kind, friendly to you. He says to his disciples, "No longer do I merely call you servants, but I call you friends." Christ did not envy. Christ did not boast about himself but boasted in the Father. Christ was not arrogant but he stooped down low to take our burden. Christ was not rude. Christ did not insist on his own way. Christ insisted on the way that was best for you, for your eternal salvation. Christ was not irritable. Christ was not resentful. Christ did not rejoice at wrongdoing, but died for it. Christ rejoiced with the truth. He bore all things, even the burdens of your sins. He believed all things. Christ hoped all things. And Christ endured all things. Look to Christ. Look to his love, especially in giving up his life as a ransom for you. And know that he says, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another just as I have loved you." May God give us the grace. Let us pray.

Our Father, we thank you for your word. We ask you to help us understand what love is. That we are nothing and profit nothing without it. And help us to truly be loving towards one another, towards our neighbors for your glory.