

**LOVE Never Fails!**

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**Romans 5:5**

...God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**Walk a different path marked by LOVE!****Matthew 5:43-46**

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?"

**Jesus Affirms Old Testament Covenant Laws Motivated By Love****Lev 19:17-18; 33-34**

<sup>17</sup> "Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. <sup>18</sup> "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord... <sup>33</sup> "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. <sup>34</sup> The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

**Jesus insists that LOVE is the hallmark that exemplifies your faith in Him and concern for others.****John 13:35**

<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**What is the LOVE that we are commanded to demonstrate toward God, our friends, and our enemies?****1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

*Paul paints a portrait of a LOVE-less Christian whose influence is ineffective!*

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

- *Meaningless noise in the ears of others!*

<sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

- *Wasted wisdom, knowledge and power that accomplishes nothing of eternal value!*

<sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

- *Good deeds that benefit no one!*

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**

**Paul defines what LOVE is and is not.**

1. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, (long-suffering)
2. love is kind. (merciful)
3. It does not envy, (covet)

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4. it does not boast, (self-centeredness)
5. it is not proud. (puffed up, arrogant)
6. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, (scheming)
7. it is not self-seeking, (selfish)
8. it is not easily angered, (irritable)
9. it keeps no record of wrongs. (an accounting ledger of evil actions)
10. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil (no joy in violating the divine law of God)
11. but rejoices with the truth. (rejoicing in the truth established by God)
12. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, (bears with others)
13. always trusts, (has faith in others)
14. always hopes, (confident trust)
15. always perseveres. (endures pressure)
16. <sup>8a</sup> Love never fails. (never falls, dies, perishes)

**1 Corinthians 13:8b-13****The preeminence and permanence of LOVE**

<sup>8b</sup> But where there are prophecies, they will cease;  
 where there are tongues, they will be stilled;  
 where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

<sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

<sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.  
 When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

<sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

LOVE is the GREATEST and it never FAILS!

The ONE thing that will remain throughout all eternity is LOVE!

- Our LOVE for God and His LOVE for us!
- Our LOVE for one another!