

# Learning to Love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

### I. Intro

#### ● Anecdote

#### • Marriage

- It was back in 1997 - when Brenda and I received pre-marital counseling from our Pastor.
- And as we made our way through the chapter on love - I began to realize that I had a lot to learn about what love IS.
- Not only that - but - I came to realize that I also had a lot to learn about what love IS NOT.
- And while the pre-marital materials most certainly helped us to better understand how to love - with the love of the Lord...
- ...the lessons we've learned about the Lord's love since then - have been challenging - and life changing.
- And I rejoice in the way that the Lord has revealed his love to me...
- ...through the way that He empowers Brenda to love me - with His agape love.

#### • Learning

- Now - as I consider how much I've learned about the love of the Lord over the last 29 years...
- ...I have no doubt that there is still so much more to learn - about God's agape love.

- The reason why is because - God's love is an infinite love - which can never be limited by our finite understanding.
- And knowing that those who trust in the Lord Jesus will spend the rest of eternity - learning about the Love of the Lord...
- ...it's my prayer that our study today will help us to learn how to love one another...
- ...according to the definition of love that Paul presented - here in our text today.

## II. Outline

### ● Points

- Love
- As we consider this content of this chapter - it shouldn't surprise you to learn that..
- ...many Christians refer to this section of scripture as the love chapter.
- And as we take the time to examine the verses before us this morning - we're going to learn...
  1. ...What Love Is
  2. ...What Love is Not
  3. ...What Love Does
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 13...
- ...where we find Paul - presenting us with a definition of Love.

## III. Love Is

### ● Set up

- Context

- As we make our way to the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- It was in our study last week - when we considered four different categories of love - - which included Eros - Phileo - Storge - and Agape.
- And while Eros - Phileo - and Storge are natural forms of love that every human is able to experience...
- ...the greatest type of love is the Agape love of the Lord - which was demonstrated on the cross - when Christ Jesus died for our sins.
- That being the case - Paul began this chapter - by helping his audience to grasp the importance of loving one another with the love of the Lord.
- Now - here in our text today - we find Paul - presenting us with a definition of God's Agape love.
- And with this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 13 - beginning there at verse 4 - where Paul declared...

- Text

1Co 13:4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;  
1Co 13:5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;  
1Co 13:6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;  
1Co 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- Love

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - presenting the Christians in Corinth - with a definition of God's Agape love.

- But before we consider what Love is - I should take a moment to point out that...
- ...there are times when the Greek word - Agape - is used of a lesser love.
  - For example - the Pharisees were guilty of LOVING the praise of men more than the praise of God.
  - And Demas left the mission field - because his LOVE for this present world was greater than his love for the Lord.
  - It's for this reason that the apostle John encouraged every Christian to avoid the agape love of this world.
- World
  - It's in 1st John chapter 2 - beginning at verse 15 - where he declared...
 

1Jo 2:15      Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jo 2:16      For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

1Jo 2:17      And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
  - Here in these verses - we find the apostle John - using the Greek verb agapao...
  - ...in reference those who love the world - and the sinful things of the world.
  - And what this means is that - there is a carnal form of agape love - which can be directed towards sinful things...
  - ...like the lust of the flesh - the lust of the eyes - and the pride of life.
  - That being the case - we will do well to consider the way that Paul defined the agape love of the Lord.

- Patient

- With this as the focus - let's take another look at the beginning of verse 4 - where Paul declared...

1Co 13:4 Love suffers long...

- The agape love of the Lord is a longsuffering love.
  - And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - the Greek word rendered - suffers long - might be better rendered - patient.
  - That's right - the agape love of the Lord is a patient love - that perseveres the offenses and injuries of others.
  - What this means is that - those who are living in the agape love of the Lord...
    - ...will be slow to anger - and slow to punish those who step on our toes.
- Longsuffering
  - I like the way that Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 4 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Eph 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Christian - listen - those who are quick to get angry with those who offend us - are failing to love others in the way that we should.
- Rather than becoming impatient with those who test the limits of our love...
  - ...Paul encouraged us to bear with one another - according to the longsuffering love of the Lord.

- And in this way - the patience of agape love will help us to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- With this as the goal - it's important for us to understand that the Holy Spirit helps us to love others in this way.
- Fruit
- I like the way that Paul put it - in Galatians chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 22 - where we learn that...

Gal 5:22 ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- According to Paul - the agape love of the Lord is actually a fruit that is produced by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Not only that - but - Paul also informs us that the fruit of the Spirit is also longsuffering...
- ...which was translated from the same Greek word that was rendered - suffers long - here in our text today.
- What this means is that - those who want to love others - with the longsuffering love of the Lord...
  - ...must walk in power of the Holy Spirit - so that we can bear this supernatural fruit.
- Kind
- At the same time - we must not fail to notice that - the agape love of the Lord - is a love that leads us to be kind to one another.
- Look with me again - there at 1st Corinthians 13 - verse 4 - where Paul declared: "Love suffers long and is kind..."

- That word - kind - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who are willing to serve - or assist others.
- Those who are kind - are obliging - pleasant - and benevolent - in the way they interact with others.
  - You might also like to know that the root word - was used of those who are virtuous and good.
    - What this means is that those who are motivated by the love of the Lord - will become benevolent believers - who are happy to serve.
- Even As
  - I like the way that Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 4 - - it's beginning at verse 31 - where he declared...
 

Eph 4:31     Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Eph 4:32     And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
  - Rather than allowing our fleshly feelings to result in carnal conflicts with other Christians...
    - ...Paul encouraged those who trust in Jesus - to be kind to one another.
    - And while it's true that there will be times when our brothers and sisters in Christ will offend us...
      - ...it's also true that those who are walking in the agape love of the Lord...
        - ...will forgive others - in the same way that we've been forgiven.
  - Love Is
    - With this as the goal - we should consider the challenge that the Lord Jesus presented to His disciples.

- And so - hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Matthew chapter 5.
- And as we make our way to the 5th chapter of Matthew's gospel account I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
- ...the agape love of the Lord is a patient love - that leads us to become longsuffering believers.
- Not only that - but - the agape love of the Lord is also a love that helps us to walk in the kindness of Christ Jesus.
- And listen - this is a love that we should extend to believers - and unbelievers alike.

#### ● Application

- Merciful
- Let's consider how Christ Jesus explained it here in Matthew chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 43 - where He declared...

Mat 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

Mat 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Mat 5:45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 5:46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Mat 5:47 "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

Mat 5:48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- Christian - listen - we are not only called to love our brothers and our sisters in Christ...

- ...but - we've also been called to love everyone - including our enemies - with the agape love of the Lord.
- Those who trust in Jesus have been called to love our neighbors - regardless of whether they're believers - or unbelievers.
- And just to be clear - Jesus pointed to the perfect love of God the Father...
- ...Who sent His only begotten Son - to offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sins - so that we can receive the love of the Lord.
- And with this as our example - let's learn how to love - according to the longsuffering love of our Heavenly Father.

#### ● Transition

#### • Points

- This brings us to our second point - because listen - those who want to learn how to Love - must not only discover...

1. ...What Love Is...

2. ...but - we must also understand What Love is Not.

- With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 13...
- ...where we find Paul - helping us to understand what the love of the Lord is NOT.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 4 - where Paul declared...

## IV. Love is Not

#### ● Text

1Co 13:4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

1Co 13:5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

1Co 13:6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

- No envy
  - Here in these verses - we not only find Paul - describing the agape love of the Lord in positive terms...
  - ...but - he also described the agape love of the Lord in negative terms - so that we can understand what love is NOT.
  - And it's there in the middle of verse 4 - where we learn that the agape love of the Lord does not envy.
  - In this context - Paul was using the Greek word which was rendered - envy - of those who burn with zeal for the things that they desire.
  - And while it's true that the love of the Lord is a longsuffering love that helps us to treat others with the kindness of Christ...
  - ...agape love is also a content love that keeps us from becoming bitter about the blessings - received by other believers.
- No parade
  - Paul also informed us - there in verse 4 - that love does not parade itself.
  - In other words - those who are walking in the agape love of the Lord avoid engaging in the rhetorical embellishments...
  - ...that are employed by those who extoll themselves - excessively.
  - More simply put - the agape love of the Lord keeps us from boasting about ourselves.

- And while there are many who love to parade their sexual sins in the name of love...
- ...Paul assured us that the agape love of the Lord will refrain from parading itself.
- No Puff
  - Not only that - but - it's there at the end of verse 4 - where Paul assured us that the agape love of the Lord is not puffed up.
  - The Greek word which was rendered - puffed up - was used of those who are filled with pride.
    - The imagery of this word points to something that swells up with inflation.
  - And while it's not uncommon for those who are in love with themselves to be puffed up with pride...
  - ...those who are walking in the agape love of the Lord will love others with a humble love.
    - The reason why is because - agape love is neither proud - nor arrogant.
- No Rude Behavior
  - Paul also informed us - there in the beginning of verse 5 - that the agape love of the Lord does not behave rudely.
  - That word - rudely - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who act unbecomingly.
  - The root word was used of those who act indecently - or inappropriately.
  - And what this means is that - those who are walking in the agape love of the Lord...

- ...will avoid behaviors that are unseemly - unsuitable - and unflattering.
- Instead - those who love others with agape love will behave in a way that is proper - according to acceptable moral standards.
- Not Selfish
  - We should also notice what Paul wrote - there in the middle of verse 5 - where he assured us that love “does not seek its own.”
  - That word - seek - in this context - was used of those who are filled with such an intense desire...
  - ...that they’re willing to engage in selfish schemes - in order to acquire the thing that they crave.
  - Those who spend their time seeking their own desires - are failing to love others with the sacrificial love of the Lord...
  - ...and the reason why is because - those who seek their own desires first - will fail to seek God’s will - first.
  - And those who fail seek God’s will first - will fail to love their neighbors - with the agape love of the Lord.
- Not provoked
  - Furthermore - those who are living in the love of the Lord - won’t be easily provoked.
  - That word - provoked - found there in the middle of verse 5 - was translated from a Greek word...
  - ...which was used of those who are irritated - exasperated - and easily aroused to anger.
  - And while it’s not always a sin to be angry - it is a sin when we allow our anger to provoke us in such a way...

- ...that we treat the people around us in an unloving way.
- Those who are living in the love of the Lord - will not yield to the provocation - that leads us to lash out at those who make us mad.
- No Evil
  - We should also notice what Paul wrote - there at the end of verse 5 - where he assured us that love “thinks no evil.”
  - That word - evil - was translated from a Greek word - which can also be rendered troublesome - injurious - pernicious - destructive - and harmful.
  - With this definition in mind - we should take a moment to ask - - how much time do we spend thinking harmful thoughts about others?
  - How much time do spend - considering the countless ways that we might exact our revenge on another person?
  - How much time do we waste - entertaining vain imaginations of evil things.
  - And while it's true that this is all hidden in our hearts - - the Lord knows how much time we spend - thinking these unloving thoughts.
- Record
  - It's also important to understand that - Paul was referring to those who were keeping a mental record of those who have harmed us.
  - Let's consider how the scholars who created the New International Version of the Bible rendered verse 5 - they put it like this...
 

1Co 13:5 ...does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
  - Those who are walking in the agape love of the Lord - won't keep a mental record of those who have wronged us.

- And with that being the case - we should take a moment to examine our own lives by asking...
  - ...am I keeping a mental record of those who have wronged me?
    - If so - then it's important for us to remember that - the agape love of the Lord will lead us to forgive and forget...
    - ...rather than maintaining a mental record of every offense.
- Rejoice
  - With all of this in mind - let's consider again what Paul wrote - there in verse 6 - where we learn that love...  
1Co 13:6 ...does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
  - That word - iniquity - was translated from a Greek word - that refers to anything that could be categorized as an act of unrighteousness.
  - The same Greek word was used of any deed that violated the law and justice.
    - And it's sad to say that there are many Christians who would never engage in sinful acts...
    - ...and yet - they still see no problem rejoicing in the iniquities of those who break the law.
      - That being the case - Paul assured his audience that those who are living in the love of the Lord - will not rejoice in iniquity.
- Truth
  - Conversely - the Christian who is filled with the agape love of God - will rejoice in the truth.
  - The Greek word rendered - Truth - was used in reference to the doctrines of the Christian religion...

- ...respecting God and the execution of his purposes through Christ Jesus...
- ...AND respecting our duties as disciples - who are called to oppose the corrupt opinions and precepts of false teachers.
- Rather than rejoicing in the iniquities of those who are living in sin...
  - ...Christians should rejoice in the truth of God's word - according to the agape love of the Lord.
- Amplified
  - I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verses 4 thru 6 - they put it like this...
 

1Co 13:4 Love endures with patience and serenity, love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious; love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant.

1Co 13:5 It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong endured.

1Co 13:6 It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail].
  - Christian - listen - the agape love of the Lord is not only based on the things that we should be doing...
  - ...but - the agape love of the Lord is also based on the things that we should NOT be doing.
  - That being the case - those who want to learn how to love others - with the agape love of the Lord...
    - ...should spend time - considering what love is not - - so that we can learn to avoid these unloving attitudes - and actions.
    - Otherwise - we'll become believers who are consuming one another with a selfish love that leads to sin.

## ● Application

- Consume
- I like the way that Paul put it - in Galatians chapter 5 - - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared...

Gal 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Gal 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- Those who are walking in the love of the Lord - will see their liberty - as the opportunity - to serve those we love.
  - In contrast to this - those who are failing to walk in the agape love of God...
    - ...will become consumed with the unloving desires - that cause us to become bitter believes - who bicker with one another.
    - And it's for this reason that we should seek the help of the Holy Spirit...
      - ...so that we can endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

## ● Transition

### • Points

- This brings us to our third and final point - because listen - those who want to learn how to Love - must not only discover...

1. ...What Love Is...

2. ...and - we must not only learn What Love is Not...

### 3. ...but - we must also understand what Love Does

- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 13.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 4 - where Paul declared...

## V. Love Does

### ● Text

1Co 13:4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

1Co 13:5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

1Co 13:6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

1Co 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- Bears
- Here in these verses - we find Paul - advancing his point from from What love IS to What Love is NOT - and then...
- ...after defining what love is NOT - he directs our attention forward - to what love DOES.
- And it's there in the beginning of verse 7 - where we learn that - what love does - is to bear all things.
- Just to be clear - that word - bears - was translated from a Greek word which was used of those who protect something in order to preserve it.
- According to Vines - the same Greek word also signifies that what is mentioned either supports what is placed upon it...
- ...and in this way - those who love others with the agape love of God provide support to those we love.
- Bear

- Paul presented a similar encouragement - in Galatians chapter 6 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- Those who love others with the agape love of the Lord - will not only seek the chance to support those who are struggling with sin...
  - ...but - we will also look for every opportunity to help them - so that they might return to the narrow path of righteousness.
  - And while those who are walking in the flesh - will be tempted to expose their sins - to those who occupy the rumor mill...
    - ...those who are walking in the love of the Lord will do their best to conceal their sins...
      - ...as we do everything we can to restore them in a spirit of gentleness.
- Cover
  - In order to grasp what I mean - it'll help you to know that - when Paul told the Christians in Corinth - that love bears all things...
    - ...he was using a Greek word which was also used in reference to that which covers - and conceals whatever is placed underneath it.
    - In this context - Paul was helping his audience to understand that those who love others with the love of the Lord...
      - ...will do our best to cover and conceal their sinful struggles - as we help them to overcome their sinful temptations.

- I like the way that King Solomon put it - in Proverbs chapter 17 - it's verse 9 - where he declared...

Pro 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love,  
But he who repeats a matter separates friends

- Believes
  - Paul not only encouraged his audience to bear all things - but - he also encouraged us to believes all things.
  - Just to be clear - Paul wasn't suggesting that the love of the Lord will lead us to believe things that are provably false.
  - Remember - it was back in verse 6 - where Paul informed us that God's agape love will lead us to rejoice in the truth.
  - With this in mind - we can be certain that it's not loving - to believe something that is clearly false.
  - That being the case - we should take a moment to ask - - what did Paul mean...
    - ...when he informed the Christians in Corinth - that those walk in love - believe all things.
- Best

- I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 7 - they put it like this...

1Co 13:7 Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one]...

- From this - we can see that - Paul wasn't encouraging Christians to blindly believe all things...
  - ...No - instead - he was encouraging us to believe the best about people until there is evidence to the contrary.

- Sadly - it's not uncommon for those who are walking in the flesh - to believe the worst about people first.
- And knowing that our vain imaginations can lead us to paint people in the worst possible light...
- ...let's learn how to love one another - by believing the best about one another.
- Hopes
  - We should also consider what Paul meant - when he informed his audience that love HOPES all things.
  - That word - hope - found there in the middle of verse 7 - was translated from a Greek word...
  - ...which was used in a religious sense - of those who are waiting for the day of their glorification - with joy - and full confidence.
  - When Paul defined the agape love of the Lord - as a love that hopes all things...
  - ...he was encouraging those who trust in Jesus - to continue looking forward to the day...
  - ...when we will finally - and forever find ourselves in loving arms of the Lord.
- Perseverance
  - Let's consider how Paul explained it - in Romans chapter 8 - it's beginning at verse 24 - where he declared...

Rom 8:24 ...we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

- Hope is the confident expectation that the Lord - Who loves us - will fulfill His promise to save those who trust in Him.
- And as we walk in the love of the Lord - the Holy Spirit will enable us to persevere every trial - and every trouble...
- ...according to the hope that fills the hearts of those who have received the agape love of God.
- And listen - the love of the Lord not only helps us to have a heart that is filled with hope - as we wait for the day of our glorification...
- ...but - this same love helps us to have hope - for the salvation - and the sanctification of others.
- Hoping
- I like the way that Paul put it - in Colossians chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 27 - where we learn that...

Col 1:27 ...God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Col 1:29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

- Paul was a man who was compelled to lead people to the Lord Jesus - and one reason why was due to the fact that...
- ...he was hoping for the salvation - the sanctification - and the glorification of every person.
- It was the love of the Lord that filled his heart with hope - as he set out to present every person - perfect in Christ Jesus.
- And while it's the tendency of our flesh to spend our time complaining about those who are still living in sin...

- ...Paul was motivated by the love that led him to have hope - that people could be saved - and sanctified - by faith in Jesus Christ.
- Endures
  - With this as the goal - Paul concluded this descriptive definition by assuring his audience - that love endures all things.
  - That word - endures - found there at the end of verse 7 - was translated from a Greek word...
    - ...which in this context - was used of those who persevere the trials and troubles of this world - as they hold fast to their faith in Christ.
    - The same word was used of those who patiently abide in Christ - despite the persecutions that we might suffer.
    - And what's even more is that - this word was also used in reference to the Christian who endures the temptation to sin...
      - ...by placing our love for the Lord - above the love we have for the pleasures of this world.
- Blessed
  - I like the way that James explained it - in James chapter 1 - it's verse 12 - where he declared...

Jas 1:12      Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

- From this - we can see that those who truly love the Lord - will endure the temptations that lead us back into a life of sin.
- Just to be clear - it'll help you to understand that - those who give in to their temptations - are living for the love of personal pleasure.

- In contrast to this - those who are living in the love of the Lord - will endure these temptations to sin...
- ...and the reason why is because - we love the Lord - more than we love our sin.
- And with this as the goal - let's walk in the power of God's agape love - so that we might endure all things.

## ● Application

- Owe
- With all of this in mind - it's crucial for every Christian to understand that - we've all been called to learn how to love others - with the love of the Lord.
- I like the way that Paul put it in Romans chapter 13 - it's beginning at verse 8 - where he declared...

Rom 13:8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Rom 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Rom 13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Rom 13:11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

- Christian - listen - we've been called to love one another - with the agape love of the Lord.
- And knowing that this is far beyond our natural ability - - we can rejoice in knowing that...

- ...the God Who loves us with His agape love - - has also given us His Holy Spirit - so that we can bear the spiritual fruit of love.
- That being the case - I encourage every Christian to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit...
  - ...so that we can become those believers - who are fulfilling the law as we learn to love one another.

## VI. Conclusion

### ● Wrap up

- Points
- As we begin to wrap up this message - I wanna take a moment to remind you of What Love Is...
  1. ...Love is patient and kind...
    - ...and it's for this reason that we should learn how to love - according to the longsuffering love of the Lord.
  2. ...I should also remind you that Love is Not self-serving.
    - Love does not envy - love does not parade itself - it's not puffed up - and does not behave rudely...
    - ...love does not seek its own - and it's not provoked - love thinks no evil - it does not rejoice in iniquity - but rather - it rejoices in the truth.
    - And it's for this reason that we should avoid the attitudes and actions - that are contrary to the love of the Lord.
  3. ...Finally - we should embrace what Love Does - as we remember that...
    - ...love bears all things - love believes all things - love hopes all things and love endures all things.

- And as we consider what love is - what love is not - and what love does...
- ...it's my prayer that we will all learn how to love one another with the agape love of the Lord.