



“LOVE — The Most Excellent Way!”

1 Corinthians Chapter 13

> **Let us LOVE ONE ANOTHER!**

- Jesus said in John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*"

- Jesus said in John 15:12-17 - *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.*

- Paul in Romans 13:8-10 writes, *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

- Peter in 1 Peter 1:22-25 writes, *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.*"

- John in 1 John 4:7-11 writes, *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

> **1 Corinthians Chapter 13 - “LOVE — The Most Excellent Way!”**

(v1-3) THREE ACTORS!

(v1) Beware of the Spiritual Actor!

(v2) Beware of the Intellectual Actor!

(v3) Beware of the Sacrificial Actor!

(v4-8a) TRUE LOVE IN ACTION!

“Love suffers long” – To be long-spirited, i.e. forbearing or patient.

“Love is kind” – The word used here denotes to be good-natured, gentle, tender, affectionate, to show oneself useful, courteous, i.e. to act benevolently.

“Love does not envy” – A feeling of resentment and jealousy toward another person because of his possessions or good qualities.

- Barnes the bible commentator writes, “The sense is, love does not envy others the happiness which they enjoy; it delights in their welfare; and as their happiness is increased by their endowments, their rank, their reputation their wealth, their health, their domestic comforts, their learning etc., those who are influenced by love “rejoice” in all this. They would not diminish it; they would not embarrass them in the possession; they would not detract from that happiness; they would not complain or repine that they themselves are not so highly favored.”

“Love does not parade itself” – The idea is that of boasting, bragging vaunting. Most expositors suppose that it has the notion of boasting or vaunting of one’s own excellencies or endowments. This spirit proceeds from the idea of “superiority” over others; and relates to feeling of contempt or disregard for them.

“Love is not puffed up” – This word means to blow, to puff, to paint, to inflate with pride, and vanity, and self-esteem.

“Love does not behave rudely” – To act unseemly or unbecoming. To speak in a condescending or crude manner, to be discourteous.

“Love does not seek its own” – True love is not selfish, self-centered, or self-absorbed. We are to love others, to seek their welfare with self-denial, to respond with personal sacrifice and toil.

“Love is not provoked” - To be quickly stirred to anger, to have a short temper.

“Love thinks no evil” – That is, to have a continual belief that the motives and heart of another is for the good. Meaning, that your love is not malicious or desires to find fault in others, but your thoughts and speech will dwell upon the good. (Philippians 4:8)

“Love does not rejoice in iniquity” – Love does not rejoice in sinful practices of our world, nor do we take delight when a fellow believer falls into sin. Christians find pleasure in hearing others accused of sin, and in having it proved that they committed it. But true love will pray for repentance, reconciliation, and restoration.

“Love rejoices in the truth” – Love rejoices in virtue, godliness, righteousness, and goodness. It does not rejoice in the "vices," but in the "virtues" of others. Love rejoices when others "do well."

“Love bears all things” - The Greek word for “bears” are *stegei*, which means to "cover," "hide," "conceal," not to make known. This means that love is disposed to hide or conceal the faults and imperfections of others, not to publicize them.

“Love believes all things” – This love has a disposition to believe that brothers and sisters in Christ are actuated by good motives, and that they intend no injury; and that there is a willingness to suppose, as far as can be, that what is done is done consistently with friendship, good feeling, and virtue.

“Love hopes all things” – God’s love is an optimistic, not pessimistic. We have hope for today in Christ, hope for change by the power of the Holy Spirit, and hope for eternity as we look forward to heaven.

“Love endures all things” – This Holy Spirit produced love bears up under any stress or strain. It sustains us and does not complain. This love endures all persecutions at the hand of man and will keep on loving no matter the event.

“LOVE NEVER FAILS!” - “Fails” is *ekpiptei* in Greek, meaning to drop away; to be driven out of one's course; figuratively, to lose, to become inefficient. In other words, God’s love through us never fails or falters, but will have its powerful effect upon everyone and every situation.

(v8b-13) ACTIVATE, MOTIVATE, & CONTEMPLATE!

(v8b-10) Prophecies, tongues and knowledge will be “*done away*,” meaning to become useless. When? When that which is “*perfect is come*,” the Greek for “*perfect*” is *teleios*, which means complete, of full age, in Philippians 1:6 we read “*being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*” When we reach glory (heaven), then there is no need for prophecies, tongues, and knowledge, because we will be perfected in Christ! (Philippians 4:20-21)

(v11-12) “*I thought as a child*” – Let us grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

- Just before his death, *Sir Isaac Newton* made this remark, “I do not know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself by now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.”

(v13) - **ACTIVATE – FAITH!** THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD!

- **MOTIVATE YOUR LIFE!** IN THE ASSURANCE OF HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION!
YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE!

NOW CONTEMPLATE, ACTIVATE AND MOTIVATE THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL WHICH IS GOD’S AGAPE LOVE!

LET’S GO FOR GOD!