

# Love - An Exposé of 1 Corinthians 13

## INTRO

The greatest capacity we have to get along in a world full of hate is in when we got saved. The love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us. God has not left us in the dark about what love is and the characteristics of His love. It is much different than the world's view of love - eros - physical, sexual love; or friendship love - which is the affection we feel when someone does what pleases us and love on the basis of what we see in another that gives us pleasure. His love is a divine, supernatural, spiritual love - unconditional, merciful, giving, sacrificial, and initiating. First Corinthians 13:1-8 defines divine love in characteristics.

v. 1 Can speak supernaturally - have not love

v. 2 Can have spiritual gifts

- Understanding of the Word
- Abundance of knowledge
- All faith - and not have love

v. 3 Can give to the poor and give of yourself sacrificially - and not have love

v. 4 **Love is longsuffering.**

- Long tempered - forbearing of evil - patient of wrong
- That quality of self-restraint, which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish.
- It is the opposite of anger and is associated with mercy.
- It is exercised chiefly towards injurious, offensive people. It does not allow their ignorance, meanness, or malicious actions to arouse anger and resentment even if they deserve it.
- It refuses to give way and strike back at bitter words and blows.
- It "long keeps calm" and endures continually.

**Love is kind.**

- This is one of the main qualities of Jesus' ministry.
- It takes injury and shows kindness.
- To endure wrong done to you can be the victory of your stubbornness.
- To endure gently and deal kindly is the victory of love and grace.

**Love envies not.**

- It does not deprive another of what one has
- It is not in competition and begrudges not others opportunities, abilities, possessions, position, privileges.
- It never detracts or tries to make others seem less and self more by comparing.
- Only love that envies not can see the inequalities of life and remain content.

**Love vaunteth not itself.**

- It does not make a parade or brag.
- It does not overestimate ones own importance.
- It does not mind when others are recognized, have preeminence, preference or prominence.
- Does not have pride - which elevates self or puts down others.
- Is not puffed up - it gives up putting on airs, not contemptuous of others, not arrogant or inflated with pride. Green corn stands upright but ripe corn bends low.

v. 5 **Love does not behave itself unseemly.**

- Does not behave contrary to form, fashion, or proper manner,
- Is not rude, ill mannered but rather courteous.
- It acts appropriately and fitting to the situation.
- Gives respect and consideration, which is rendering equality in rights and privileges.

**Love seeketh not her own.**

- Unselfish - does not grasp for oneself one's own pleasure, profit, or honor to detriment of others.
- Is self-forgetful and joys in serving.
- Advances oneself but not entirely in unconcern for others' growth and welfare.

**Love is not easily provoked.**

- Not irritable, touchy, fretful, resentful, thin-skinned, or easily offended.
- Not easily embittered by abuse, wrong, or insults to where it becomes retaliatory and vindictive.
- Especially when you have given kindness but receive the opposite.

**Love thinketh no evil.**

- Keeps no record of wrong or memory list.
- Does not keep score or inwardly rehearse ill treatment.
- Holds no grudges.
- A spark of hate cannot harm a sea of love and love has amazing power to forget as God does our offences.
- Love enables you to forget it, drop it, and move on.

v. 6 **Love rejoices not in iniquity.**

- Has no pleasure in any act contrary to God's norm. No pleasure in wrong or is never glad when others go wrong - never delights in exposed weakness of others.

**Rejoices in the truth.**

- Not truth of one's failures or sins but truth of God's Word - it embraces God's truth gladly.
- Loves highest loyalty is to truth.

v. 7 **Love bears all things.**

- It endures, remains steady, constant without complaint.
- It can get under the load and bear it.
- It is a shield against hardships.

**Love believes all things.**

- About God, His Word and what it says about oneself and others. It doesn't exceed nor diminish what God says but believes it.
- Also means not basically suspicious. Is not blind or easily deceived but refuses to yield to quick distrust; quickly jumping to the worst conclusion; or putting the worst design on circumstances.

**Love hopes all things.**

- Expects the best of others. Anticipates the best in people and circumstances.
- Always expects grace to conquer and win.
- Never despairs of anyone and holds on for them.

**Love endures all things.**

- Remains brave, confident and courageously perseveres.
- Is opposite of running in frantic panic.
- Never loses heart or gives up when people fail, abandon, disappoint or forsake.
- It endures frustration - it does not vent it out on others.

v. 8 **Love never fails.**

- It never ceases its operation.
- Never falls to the ground like a flower does to decay.
- Never loses its strength.
- Never grows tired.
- Never fades out or becomes obsolete.
- It will not "stall" but keeps "running" its course.