

# 1 John 3 – Let us Love One Another (Part 9)

The extraordinary love of God towards mankind, and the effects of it 1 John Chapter 3 (1-3).

## The Command to Love

(1) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us (given to us), that we should be called children of God (and so we are)! Therefore, the world does not know us, (and the reason is) because it did not know Him.

**REVIEW:** We studying how **God's love** is characterized in 1 Cor chapter 13. Today we'll conclude our study in 1 Corinthians in verses 7,8, and 13. This is a long lesson so we'll skip next week Nov 10. On Nov 17 we return to our study in 1 John Chapter 3.

**ANSWERS TO PART 8** – If we were meeting in person ... we would be looking up scripture together (noting different translations), have classroom discussion for definitions, and together fill in the blanks provided in the lessons. So in lieu of that ... answers will be provided on the last page for last weeks' lesson in order to give you some study time to complete the lessons yourself. Please know that you will get the most benefit out of the lessons if you delve into God's word yourself, look up definitions, and fill in the blanks provided.

## OVERVIEW of 1 Corinthians Chapter 13

I. 1 Cor 13:1-3 Paul tells us that Biblical love needs to be a priority for Christians.

II. 1 Cor 13:4-7 Paul tells us what Biblical love is.

III. 1 Cor 13:8-13 Paul tells us that Biblical love is greater than all the spiritual gifts.

### ===== **BIBLICAL LOVE 1 Corinthians 13:4-7** =====

In 1 Corinthians chapter 13 ... Paul describes Biblical love in terms of action words.

“... let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” **1 John 3:18**

I Cor 13:7 (Love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Spurgeon calls these four virtues *love's four sweet companions*.

What does Paul mean by “all things”? ***All things covers everything!*** We can all *bear some things*, we can all *believe some things*, we can all *hope some things*, and we can all *endure some things*. But God calls us farther and deeper into **love for Him, for one another, and for a perishing world**.

### 7a Love bears all things (Love always protects, Love is strong)

“Love does not ask to have an easy life of it... Love denies herself, sacrifices herself, that she may win victories for God, and hers shall be no tinsel crown.” (Spurgeon)

Love bears all things.

**DEFINE** bears \_\_\_\_\_

The word for **bears** can also be translated ***covers*** or ***protects by covering***.

Love seeks to protect others by covering or shielding. It does not broadcast the problems of others. It does not speak sarcasm or put-downs but rather defends the character of others.

**DEFINE** covers \_\_\_\_\_

“Love covers; that is, it never proclaims the errors of good men. Love stands in the presence of a fault, with a finger on her lip.” (Spurgeon)

“I would, my brothers and sisters, that we could all imitate the pearl oyster. A hurtful particle intrudes itself into its shell, and this vexes and grieves it. It cannot eject the evil, and what does it do but cover it with a precious substance extracted out of its own life, by which it turns the intruder into a pearl. Oh, that we could do so with the provocations we receive from our fellow Christians, so that pearls of patience, gentleness, long-suffering, and forgiveness might be bred within us by that which has harmed us.” (Spurgeon)

**1 Peter 4:8** \_\_\_\_\_

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**7b Love believes all things**

Love chooses to believe the best in others. Love has confidence in others. This love gives others the benefit of the doubt and trusts in their good intentions. It believes in the innocence until proven guilty.

**DEFINE** believe \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFINE** innocent \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 4:2** \_\_\_\_\_

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**7c Love hopes all things**

This kind of love hopes for the best where others are concerned, knowing God is faithful to complete the work He has started in us. This hope-filled love encourages others to press forward in the faith.

**Rom 12:12** \_\_\_\_\_

Love hopes all things and expects others to succeed. Love has godly optimism and rests in the promises of God

**Rom 8:28** \_\_\_\_\_

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Love has confidence in the future, it hopes for the best, and it hopes in God.

**Rom 5:5** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7d Love endures all things (Perseveres)

Most of us can *bear all things*, and *believe all things*, and *hope all things*, but only for a while!

The greatness of *agape* love is it keeps on bearing, believing, and hoping. It doesn't give up. It destroys enemies by turning them into friends.

"If your brethren are angry without a cause, be sorry for them, but do not let them conquer you by driving you into a bad temper. Stand fast in love; endure not some things, but all things, for Christ's sake; so you shall prove yourself to be a Christian indeed." (Spurgeon)

Matthew 5:44-45 \_\_\_\_\_

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Love endures all things. It holds up under trial, it hangs in there; no bailing out when things get tough. This kind of love endures even through the most difficult trials.

Rom 15:5 \_\_\_\_\_

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### The best way to understand each of these is to see them in the life of Jesus.

- We could replace the word *love* with the name *Jesus* and the description would make perfect sense. We can easily say, *Jesus suffers long and is kind; Jesus does not envy...* and make it through the whole chapter.
- We can measure *our* spiritual maturity by seeing how it sounds when we put our name in place of the word *love*. Does it sound totally ridiculous or just a "little" far-fetched?
- There is a reason why Paul put this chapter in the midst of his discussion of spiritual gifts. Paul wants the Corinthian Christians to remember that giftedness is not the measure of maturity, the display of love is.

===== CONCLUSION: The Permanence of God's Love =====

## 8a Love never fails

DEFINE fail \_\_\_\_\_

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Love never fails. Love will outlive all the gifts – prophecies will fail; tongues will cease; knowledge will vanish away. But when that which is Perfect has come .. then all else will be done away.

## 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love

Love is greatest because it will continue, even grow, in the eternal state. When we are in heaven, **faith** and **hope** will have fulfilled their purpose. We won't need **faith** when we see God face to face. We won't need to **hope** in the coming of Jesus once He comes. But we will always **love** the Lord and each other, and grow in that **love** through eternity.



**Love** is also the greatest because it is an attribute of God ([1 John 4:8](#)), and faith and hope are not part of God's character and personality. God does not have **faith** in the way we have **faith**, because He never has to "trust" outside of Himself. God does not have **hope** the way we have **hope**, because He knows all things and is in complete control. But God is love, and will always be love.

Fortunately, we don't need to choose between **faith**, **hope**, and **love**. Paul isn't trying to make us choose, but he wants to emphasize the point to the Corinthian Christians: without **love** as the motive and goal, the gifts are meaningless distractions. If you lose love, you lose everything.

**1 John 4:8** \_\_\_\_\_

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**CONSIDER:** What did you learn about today's lesson? What made an impression on you?

**RESPOND:** Please take a moment to reflect on this lesson and how we can show others that God's love is in us. If you're open to sharing => **click** on the web link (on the Ladies of Grace web page).

**REMINDER:** Answers to last weeks' lesson are on the last page.

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## PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for being a loving and gracious God. Your love is perfect and it never fails me. My prayer is that I be filled with Your love so I can make a difference in this world. My desire is to honor You by simply loving others as You love others. Help me to show patience and kindness to those around me. Help me to walk with humility, peace, and grace. Help me to look out for the interests of others. Help me to be careful how I speak and slow to anger.

Lord help me to love Your words of truth and let it be what fills me and guides my choices every day. Lord thank you that Your love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, thank you that Your love never fails.

Amen.

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<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/1-corinthians-13/>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-5-what-love-looks-1-corinthians-134-7>

<https://www.learnreligions.com/love-is-patient-love-is-kind-bible-verse-701342>

----- ANSWERS TO LESSON 8 -----

6a Love does not rejoice in iniquity (does not delight in evil)

DEFINE iniquity immoral or grossly unfair behavior, gross injustice

DEFINE evil to be in opposition to God

James 4:7 Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Thessalonians 5:22 reject every kind of evil.

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6b Love rejoices in the truth

DEFINE truth the quality or state of being verifiable, accurate, honest, genuine, correct, right, in accordance with fact, certain, reality: gospel, gospel truth, God's truth

3 John 4:1 I have no greater joy than to hear My children walking in the truth