



The Good News

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A Reminder of Love

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Whenever we seek a definition of love, we often go to Paul's comprehensive definition in **I Corinthians 13:1-8**. This is a passage of Scripture that often finds its way into picture frames and other places as we remind ourselves of God's definition of love. Let's consider this passage more carefully, and then put it in its context to better appreciate its application.

Love:

v.1 – Gifts of tongues meant nothing if there wasn't love to motivate edification.

v.2 – Gifts of prophecy and knowledge did not make me noteworthy if love and edification were not involved.

v.3 – Even if I gave up my worldly possessions and gave up my body to persecution, if there wasn't love motivating my "good deeds", I was not profited by them.

v.4 – Love suffers long and is kind: Love reminds me to be patient and kind in dealing with others. The opposite would be mean-hearted, cruel, and impatient.

v.4 – Love does not envy, parade itself, or puff itself up: Love reminds me that I am not to be jealous of the good that others have, particularly with regards to my brethren. I am not to be a braggart, vaulting up myself in pride, or making myself out to be better than everyone else.

v.5 – Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked: Love reminds me that, as with being kind, I am to consider how my words and actions might impact others, thus polite instead of rude. This term "rudely" also carries the implication of that which is "unbecoming". Therefore, I must al-

ways have a mind to what example I set in my conduct. I do not seek my own hidden agendas or plot to have my way. I am not easily brought to angry outbursts.

v.5-6 – Love thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth: Love reminds me to always keep my thoughts in check regarding that which is evil and sin, and also to never make assumptions about others. I also rejoice in the truth of God's word, and never in sin. Thus I always stand against evil alongside my brethren.

v.7 – Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things: Love reminds me that in all trials and hardships I am to bear my burden in service to God. I also bear with my brethren, even if we don't always get along. I believe all things of the Gospel, and I believe and trust my brethren, always, unless I have proof that I should question their word. I hope in salvation and the things of the Gospel through all hardships. I trust in my God to always be in control. I endure through all hardships out of love for my God and for my brethren.

v.8 – Love never fails, but one day the spiritual gifts will: As long as all parties have love and edification in their hearts, all manner of issues can be weathered.

This is a perfect end to the definition as Paul reminds the brethren not to trust in miraculous gifts as they would soon be done away with. Rather, Paul reminds the brethren about loving God and loving one another as they more accurately train their character. Miraculous gifts have long been gone today, but the lesson is that we must work to have love as God has taught us.