



The Good News

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I Corinthians 13 and Love

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While we often talk about the love of God, the love of Jesus, and the love we should have for one another, we must often be reminded of what love is. But there are times when a simple definition cannot fully provide a comprehensive understanding of a term. While we can know the definition of love, it does not necessarily help us put it into practice. In **I Corinthians 13:1-8**, Paul provides not just a definition of love, but provides example of *applied* love. This tells what love is and is not, what it does and does not. As a result, it helps us to know whether we are loving God and one another as we should.

Love:

v.3 – Even if I give up my worldly possessions and give up my body to persecution, if there isn't love motivating my "good deeds", I am 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 always 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 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: As long as all parties have love and edification in their hearts, all manner of issues can be weathered.

Let us strive to not just know the definition of what love is, but to apply love in our service to God and dealings with others. Without a true understanding of love and its applied traits, we miss the whole point of God's plan of salvation: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" (John 3:16). God loves us and wants us to be saved. Will we show the same love for Him and other souls?