

Finally, Paul tells of the PERMANENCE of love: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity" (v.13). Charity will endure throughout all eternity.

The greatest display of love this world has ever seen is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus' death on the cross is not a picture of God loving nice, worthy, and loveable people. The world's hatred for Christ was so intense that they were willing to release a common criminal from prison instead of Him. They spit on Him and cursed Him; they mocked and pulverized Him. With great relief they watched him suffer; they could hardly wait to see him die. Yet Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." He loved and forgave them by an active choice of divine will. He endured to show His love for the world and to save all who believe in Him from sin, death, and hell. Won't you repent? Believe in Christ and be saved today.



Matthew Recker

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# LOVE

THE LOVE CHAPTER  
IN 1 CORINTHIANS 13  
IS A HYMN OF BEAUTY  
AND A GEM IN SCRIPTURE.  
READ MORE ABOUT  
LOVE INSIDE!

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# IN 1 CORINTHIANS 13



Love is a desire for and a delight in the well being of the one loved. It leads to active self-sacrificing efforts on another's behalf, without condition or without expectation of reciprocation.

Paul tells us of three major points about love in this beautiful chapter. First, he writes of Love's PREEMINENCE (v.1-3). Without love, we are nothing. Without love, eloquent speaking ability is just a clanging cymbal or a noisy brass gong. Genuine spiritual giftedness without love is fruitless.

Even mighty sacrifices made for the kingdom without love amount to nothing. “Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing” (v.3)

With sublime brevity and majestic beauty, Paul next summarizes the PROPERTIES of unstoppable love that never crumbles. “Charity (old English word for love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up” (v.4). This verse explains the opening aspects of love. Love is a choice, for Paul describes love with sixteen active tense verbs. Love is not merely a fickle feeling, but a decision of action. Love is also a matter of conduct. Paul does not say, “Love FEELS patient and kind” but love IS patient and kind. Love is also continuous, for the active present tense emphasizes unceasing behavior. The crescendo of love is here given: “Charity beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth” (v.7,8a). “Beareth” means to protect

by covering over something. Love, like the roof of your house, conceals from the dangerous elements. Paul is not saying that love is gutless or gets pushed around, but love covers up the ugliness of the one you love. "He that covers a transgression seeks love, but he that repeats a matter separates very friends" (Proverbs 17:9). "Believing all things" is love's foundation. Love has unceasing trust in the one loved. This means that you believe the best in any another person. Love also maintains an unstoppable expectation for it "hopes all things." This speaks of a continual and hopeful outlook of the future. Love's walls do not cave in, they stand tall. To endure is perseverance at all costs abiding under a situation without giving God a deadline to remove it. This word implies that there will be crushing loads placed upon you, but love possesses an energetic grit that perseveres, holds out, and holds on in spite of hostile forces. Love never fails or crumbles under pressure.