

Biblical Soul Care  
"Love" Lesson #7  
**1 Corinthians 13**  
July 23, 2023

Purpose: To grow in our understanding of and application of what it means to love God and our fellow members of the Household of faith.

Considering the crisis of our times, a man of insight cries out, "Love or Perish." Our affluent society is an afflicted society for lack of love. Just imagine how many marriages would be spared the heartbreak of separation and divorce if there were true love in the hearts of men and women. Think of what comfort and encouragement would brighten the lot of the poor, sick, lonely and sorrowing, if only there were more love in this world. Who can tell what new vitality would stir the Church, and draw others into the fellowship, if only there were real love among the professed followers of Christ? It is love we need-Christian love. Mariano DiGangi

The Holy Spirit is inspiring Paul to write of a more excellent way, "And yet I show you a more excellent way." 1 Corinthians 12:31

Not just a good way or a better way but a "hyperbolic" way. The word "excellent" is translated "Beyond measure" in Galatians 1:13 and "surpassing greatness" in 2 Corinthians 4:7. Paul is telling us that he is going to show us not just a great way but a "beyond greatness" way, a way that is beyond measurement, a way for making an impact for Christ so great that it can't be measured. Mack

"Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." 1 Corinthians 13:7

Perfection #13 "Believes all things"

Question: Does this mean we are to be gullible and naïve?

Scriptures:

Proverbs 14:15

Proverbs 22:3

Proverbs 28:26

Proverbs 12:15

Question: What does it mean to "believe all things?"

If we are loving people, we will not allow suspicion, cynicism, or a judgmental, critical attitude to become a dominant feature in our relationships. We will put the best possible interpretation on what another person has done or said until we have the facts that prove to the contrary.

Most of us can slip into the sin of judgmentalism from time to time. But there are those among us who practice it continually. These people have a critical spirit. They look and find fault with everyone and everything. Whether it is a person, a church an event or anything-they end up speaking in a disparaging manner. Jerry Bridges

In dealing with loved ones, love is not suspicious or cynical, but open and favorably disposed towards them. It seeks to understand each person in the best light with an understanding of life's complexities. It believes people can change and improve. It sees their worth, potential and future possibilities. It studies motives and makes all possible allowances. Strauch "15 descriptions of Love"

**Believes** (4100) ([pisteuo](#) ] from [pistis](#) = faith, trust, belief) in context implies that love sees the best in others or gives the other person the benefit of the doubt, choosing to believe the best about them not the worst!

**Augustine** said it well that this quality of love is "believing the best" about **all** people.

Paul is not saying that love is gullible and believes everything and does not exercise qualities such as wisdom and discernment. What he is saying is that love will **believe** well of others unless convinced otherwise. It seeks to put the best possible construction on another's words, actions, etc.

Specific and practical ways that having a love that always trust and believes is lived out!

Perfection #14 "Love hopes all things"

**Hopes** (1679) (**elpizo** from **elpis** = hope, conveying as the main element a sense of confidence) means to look forward with confidence to that which is good and beneficial. In the present context of interpersonal relationships, it means that the one who loves, looks at the bright side of things and does not despair (and certainly does not convey a sense of despair to the other person). Love is not pessimistic but shows a godly optimism. Supernatural love does not have a negative and critical spirit, but is always positive and hopeful. This love hopes for what is good for another, even when others have ceased to hope.

In the New Testament, Hope refers to a "favorable and confident expectation of good."

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

"Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world." Ephesians 2:12

"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain," Hebrews 6:19

"Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13

This confidence is not a sentimental wish; it is faith in God's ultimate triumph and in God's good intentions for His people. This gives him realistic optimism and confidence in the future, even in the face of repeated difficulties and disappointments. This hope in the Lord and trust in His sure promises enables the believer to put problems and failures in perspective. Strauch "15 descriptions of Love"

Some practical examples of Love hoping all things from Mack:

Perfection #15 "Love endures all things"

**Endures (5278)** (**hupomeno** from **hupo** = under + **meno** = abide, remain) literally means to remain or abide under and figuratively refers to abiding under not simply with stoical resignation, but with a vibrant hope. It describes is not the spirit which can passively bear things, but the spirit which, in bearing them, can conquer and transmute them. The idea is to continue in an activity despite resistance and opposition. **Hupomeno** (**present tense**) speaks of perseverance and tenacity in all circumstances. It means to endure in times of pain, suffering, deprivation, hatred, loss, and loneliness. Precept Austin

Hypomeno literally means "to bear up under pressure" or "to bear up courageously" or "to remain patient in the midst of opposition."

In some context the word means to abide or to remain in a place instead of leaving it. A military term used of an army holding a vital position at all costs. It is used to describe a situation in which every hardship and suffering was to be endured patiently in order to hold fast.

To hold fast in one's faith in Christ while undergoing misfortunes and trials. To remain, not recede or flee. And to do so calmly, bravely and patiently.

Scriptures:

"And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved." Matthew 10:22

"rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer" Romans 12:12

"Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him." 2 Timothy 2:10-12

"looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" Hebrews 12:2-3, 5-7

"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." James 1:12 NLT

Love is strong and tenacious. No hardship or rebuff ever makes love cease to be love. Love last; it holds out; it perseveres in the face of opposition, unkindness, and difficulties; it never gives up. Serving Christ and His people cannot be done without labor and self-sacrifice. Love gives a person the power to endure all things.

Strauch

Examples:

Small group time:

Remember these 4 things:

1. The exposition of these love principles is not to discourage or destroy us but 2) to motivate us to see our constant need of the cross and how much we owe to Jesus and 3) to motivate us to understand our constant need of grace-that our salvation never has been or never will be by the works we have done but always by the work Christ has done and is doing for us and finally 4) to cause us to understand that we must and can, by His grace, put off from our lives the "unlove" that is displeasing to God and put on in our lives the love that is beautifully described in 1 Corinthians 13 so that we might become more and more like our savior and more prolific in bearing fruit for Him.

Question: What description of love impacted you most through this study?

Question: What description of love was different than you had previously understood?

Question: Which description are you most fruitful in? Which one are you most lacking?

Question: In what practical ways do you intend to put into practice what you have learned?

Question: In what ways have you come to understand the love of God and Christ and what is your response to this great love?

