

INTRODUCTION

- We are currently talking about "love" as Paul describes it in 1 Corinthians chapter 13.
- This chapter provides for us the attitude behind all spiritual gifts.
- Now we are looking at verses 6-7, so please take your Bible and turn with me to 1 Corinthians chapter 13.
- We have already seen what love is and what love is not
- In verses 6 and 7, Paul now says, love "rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Robert Hughes says, "In this section, several of the qualities of love were especially relevant to the Corinthian situation.

Patience (13:4) certainly was not being given to the weaker brother of chapter 8 or issuing from the gluttons of chapter 11.

"Jealous" (13:4) related to the "jealousy and strife" of 3:3.

"Brag" (13:4) was a Corinthian pastime (4:7; 5:6).

“Arrogant” (13:4) was almost the key word for the Corinthian problem (4:6, 18; 5:2; 8:1).

“Seek its own” (13:5) mirrored “seek his own” (10:24).

“Take into account a wrong” (13:5) referred back to the whole problem of lawsuits in chapter 6 (see 6:7–8 especially).

“Rejoice in unrighteousness” (13:6) raised the specter of the Corinthians’ boasting in the great immorality of chapter 5.

Hughes, Robert B. [First Corinthians](#). Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1985. Print. Everyman’s Bible Commentary.

Now we come to the last part of verse 6 and all of verse 7 that gives 5 more positives about love.

First...

I. Love Rejoices with the Truth (v.6b)

- This is a contrast with unrighteousness
 - Love does not delight in sin
 - Love rejoices with truth
- Truth is used here in two ways:

- It's referring to God's truth, His revealed Word
 - Righteousness is predicated on God's truth and cannot exist apart from it
 - Love always rejoices in God's truth and never with falsehood or false teaching
 - Love cannot tolerate wrong doctrine
 - It confronts false teaching
 - Acts 8:18-24, "(18) Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, (19) saying, 'Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' (20) But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! (21) You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. (22) Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. (23) 'For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.' (24) But Simon answered and said, 'Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.'"
 - It confronts sin
 - Acts 5:1-6, "(1) But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, (2) and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. (3) But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? (4) 'While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that

you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” (5) And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. (6) The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.”

- Acts 5:7-10, "(7) Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. (8) And Peter responded to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?” And she said, “Yes, that was the price.” (9) Then Peter said to her, “Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.” (10) And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

- Paul confronted Peter for playing the hypocrite with the Gentiles in Galatians 2:11-14, "(11) But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. (12) For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. (13) The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. (14) But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

- Matthew 18:15-17, "(15) “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. (16) But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** (17) If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a

Gentile and a tax collector.

- It's referring to goodness, virtue and piety (Barnes)
 - Love does not focus on the wrongs of others
 - It does not parade their faults for all the world to see
 - Love does not disregard falsehood and unrighteousness, but as much as possible it focuses on the true and the right
 - It looks for the good, hopes for the good, and emphasizes the good
 - It rejoices in those who teach the truth and live the truth
 - It's seen in being patient and kind
 - It's not seen in being jealous, bragging, arrogant, rude, selfish, keeping lists or rejoicing in sin
 - Albert Barnes says, "It does not rejoice in the vices, but in the virtues of others."
 - John Gill adds "Love is the constant attempt to discover good and praiseworthy words, through deeds in a person."
 - So, "love rejoices in the success of others"
 - Joseph is a classic example of this kind of love
 - He never rejoiced in the sin of his brothers
 - He did see how God used them for good

- He said in Genesis 50:20, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."
- We are to love in truth - 1 John 3:18 says, "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and in truth."

There are many who "resist the truth" (2 Tim. 3:8); or who "hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18); but love accepts it, keeps it pure, exults in all its triumphs (Acts 11:23; 2 John 4).

Spence-Jones, H. D. M., ed. [1 Corinthians](#). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909. Print. The Pulpit Commentary.

When God was about to create man, according to a Jewish legend, He took into His counsel the angels that stood about his throne.

"Create him not," said the angel of Justice, "for if Thou dost he will commit all kinds of wickedness against his fellow men; he will be hard and cruel and dishonest and unrighteous."

"Create him not," said the angel of Truth, "for he will be false and deceitful to his brother-man, and even to Thee."

"Create him not," said the angel of Holiness, "he will follow that which is impure in Thy sight, and dishonor Thee to thy face."

*Then stepped forward the angel of Mercy (God's best beloved) and said:
"Create him, our Heavenly Father for when he sins and turns from the path of right and truth and holiness I will take him tenderly by the hand, and speak*

loving words to him, and then lead him back to Thee.”

Dirk Philips: Love does not act hypocritically and does not deal deceitfully. Love does not transgress the teaching and rule of Christ. It shuns all false worship, all idolatry, ceremonies, and institutions of humans that are contrary to God. It does not seek the friendship of this world; it does not desire to please people. It knows well that all which is regarded as high among people is an abomination before God. It does not adorn the flesh; it does not seek what is temporal and perishable. It does not fear the cross of Jesus Christ but it rejoices in the same (Gal 6:16). An Apology or Reply.

Manetsch, Scott M., Timothy George, and David W. McNutt, eds. [1](#) Corinthians: New Testament. IXa. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2017. Print. Reformation Commentary on Scripture.

Not only does love rejoice with the truth but verse 7 gives us 4 more things love does in truth...

II. Love Bears All Things (v.7a)

4 times Paul says "all things" to underline the sentence.

Verse 7 is a summation of verses 4-6

The word "bear" (*stego*) (στέγω, 4722), primarily means “to protect, or preserve by covering”. (Vine, W. E., Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr. [Vine's Complete](#)

It is "to hide, conceal, not to make known."

Albert Barnes says, "If this be the sense here, then it means that love is disposed to *hide* or *conceal* the faults and imperfections of others." (Barnes, Albert. [Notes on the New Testament: I Corinthians](#). Ed. Robert Frew. London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885. Print.)

- Love protects others from exposure, ridicule, or harm
- It does not gossip or listen to gossip
- Even when a sin is certain, love tries to correct it with the least possible hurt and harm to the guilty person
- Love never protects sin but is anxious to protect the sinner (MacArthur, John F., Jr. [1 Corinthians](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.)
- Proverbs 10:12 says, "love covers all transgressions."
- Peter repeated this in 1 Peter 4:8, "(8) Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins."

III. Love Believes All Things (v.7b)

Love is not suspicious or cynical. When it throws its mantle over a wrong it also believes in the best outcome for the one who has done the wrong—that

the wrong will be confessed and forgiven and the loved one restored to righteousness.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. [1 Corinthians](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

Lenski said, "Love "believes all things" and refuses to yield to suspicions of doubt. The flesh is ready to believe all things about a brother and a fellow man in an evil sense. Love does the opposite, it is confident to the last.

Lenski, R. C. H. [The Interpretation of St. Paul's First and Second Epistle to the Corinthians](#). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1963. Print.

- Job's friends showed few signs of love
 - They were ready to believe the worst about him, being thoroughly convinced that his problems could only have been caused by his sins
 - Job did not himself understand why he was suffering so terribly, but he knew it was not because of his sins
 - "Behold, I know your thoughts," he responded to his friends, "and the plans by which you would wrong me" (Job 21:27)
 - They gave Job no benefit of doubt because they had no true love for him
 - Knowing the uprightness of Job's life, loving friends would have realized that his sufferings were out of proportion to whatever shortcomings he had (MacArthur, John F., Jr. [1 Corinthians](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.)
- The Pharisees and Scribes were no different

- They looked for the worst in others, including Jesus
- When Jesus forgave a paralytic of his sins, the Pharisees immediately concluded He was sinning (Luke 5:21)
- Hatred believes the worst; love believes the best
- Love trusts
- Love has confidence
- Love believes

Next...

IV. Love Hopes All Things (v.7c)

William Barclay tells the story of Adam Clarke, who was one of the great theologians, but at school he was very slow to learn. One day a distinguished visitor paid a visit to the school, and the teacher singled out Adam Clark and said, "That is the stupidest boy in the school." Before he left the school, the visitor came to the boy and said kindly, "Never mind, my boy, you may be a great scholar some day. Don't be discouraged but try hard, and keep on trying." The teacher was hopeless, the visitor was hopeful, and—who knows?—it may well have been that word of hope which made Adam Clark what he one day became.

Barclay, William, ed. [The Letters to the Corinthians](#). Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1975. Print. The Daily Study Bible Series.

- Love desires all things to work out for the best

- Hope is patient, waiting for positive results that eventually may be realized
- Hope is the converse of pessimism and the essence of healthy optimism
- Hope is never focused on oneself but always on God in Christ Jesus (Kistemaker, Simon J., and William Hendriksen. [Exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians](#). Vol. 18. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001. Print. New Testament Commentary

John Gill says, "It desires the best of all men, of all professors of religion, even of wicked men, that they may be better and brought to repentance, and of fallen professors, who declare their repentance, and make their acknowledgments; he hopes well of them, that they are sincere, and all is right and will appear so."

*(Gill, John. [An Exposition of the New Testament](#). Vol. 2. London: Mathews and Leigh, 1809. Print. *The Baptist Commentary Series*.)*

Last...

V. Love Endures All Things (v.7d)

- Love holds fast to those it loves
- It endures all things at all costs
- It stands against overwhelming opposition and refuses to stop bearing or stop believing or stop hoping
- Love will not stop loving

- The verb *to endure* connotes perseverance and tenacity in all circumstances
 - It means to endure in times of pain, suffering, deprivation, hatred, loss, and loneliness
- New Testament writers repeatedly exhort us to persevere:
 - Paul tells us that if we endure with Christ, we will also reign with him (2 Tim. 2:12)
 - Peter urges slaves to endure the pain of unjust suffering for the Lord's sake (1 Peter 2:19–20)
 - John on the island Patmos endures exile for the sake of God's Word (Rev. 1:9)
 - The suffering which the apostles and early Christians had to endure for the sake of the gospel is eloquent testimony of fervent love for God. (Kistemaker, Simon J., and William Hendriksen. [*Exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians*](#). Vol. 18. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001. Print. New Testament Commentary.)

CONCLUSION

- Do you rejoice with the truth?
- Do you seek to cover the sins of others believing and hoping the best in others?
- Do you hold fast to those you love?
- That kind of love is possible in Jesus Christ

- He can transform your heart from hate to love; love for Him and love for others

J. Vernon McGee writes, as we close, "Love involves the heart (v. 1), the mind (v. 2), and the will (v. 3). Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Although we are to covet earnestly the best gifts, they are to be exercised in love—and only the Spirit of God can do that.

Look at it this way: Write down a string of zeros—eloquence alone is zero, prophecy alone is zero, knowledge alone is zero, faith alone is zero, sacrifice alone is zero, martyrdom alone is zero. Six zeros still add up to nothing. But you put the numeral 1 to the left of that string of zeros, and every zero amounts to something. And, friend, love is the thing that needs to be added to every gift of the Spirit. Without love your gift is worthless.

McGee, J. Vernon. [Thru the Bible Commentary: The Epistles \(1 Corinthians\)](#). electronic ed. Vol. 44. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991. Print.

- If you're here today without Jesus then none of this makes any sense
- We can only live this way because our Lord did and He gives us the ability to live this way too
- All of these features are seen in Him

David Guzik says, "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.

Guzik, David. [1 Corinthians](#). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik, 2013. Print. David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible.

I close with this quote from Charles 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.”

Guzik, David. [1 Corinthians](#). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik, 2013. Print. David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible.

Let's pray.