

A PORTRAIT OF LOVE



Lesson 7 for August 15, 2026

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love"
(1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV)



1 Corinthians 13 is known as “the love chapter.” It doesn’t define romantic love, but a much deeper kind of love: divine love.

Paul magnificently explains how to show in our lives the love of God that has been poured into our hearts (Rom. 5:5).

Love is the driving force behind all our actions, the reason why we do what benefits those with whom we interact.



A PORTRAIT OF LOVE

**The supremacy
of love**

The characteristics of love

**The
perseverance of
love**

**The most
excellent
way**

**What
love
does**

**What
love
does
NOT do**

**A
portrait
of
Jesus**

**The
greatest
of virtues**

THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE



THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY

"But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way." (1 Corinthians 12:31)



What kind of love is Paul presenting in 1 Corinthians 13, and why does it surpass any spiritual gift? (1 Cor. 12:31-13:3)

In Greek there are several words to define love. Paul chooses *agape* (selfless, unconditional, and reflective love, which seeks only the well-being of the beloved), which is the same one that John uses when saying that "God is love" (1 John 4:8).



No spiritual gift is useful if it is not exercised motivated by this kind of love. In fact, all our actions and thoughts should be infused with *agape love*.



Jesus warned us that, because of wickedness, this love will grow cold (Matthew 24:12). But we must not allow this to happen to us, in our homes, or in our churches.



THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE



WHAT LOVE DOES

"Love suffers long and is kind; [...] but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

It suffers long

makrothymeō: to have long spirit, to endure, to be patient

Show patience and tolerate the mistakes of others

It is kind

jrēsteuomai: act benevolently

It is merciful and compassionate

It rejoices in the truth

synjairō: to express sympathy, to congratulate

It rejoices with those who support the truth

It bears all things

stegō: to cover with silence (to endure patiently)

Hide and keep silent about the faults of others, without revealing them

It believes all things

pisteuō: to have faith, to give credit, to trust

It does not condemn, but rather grants the benefit of the doubt

It hopes all things

Elpizō: to wait or to trust

Always expect something good to happen

It endures all things

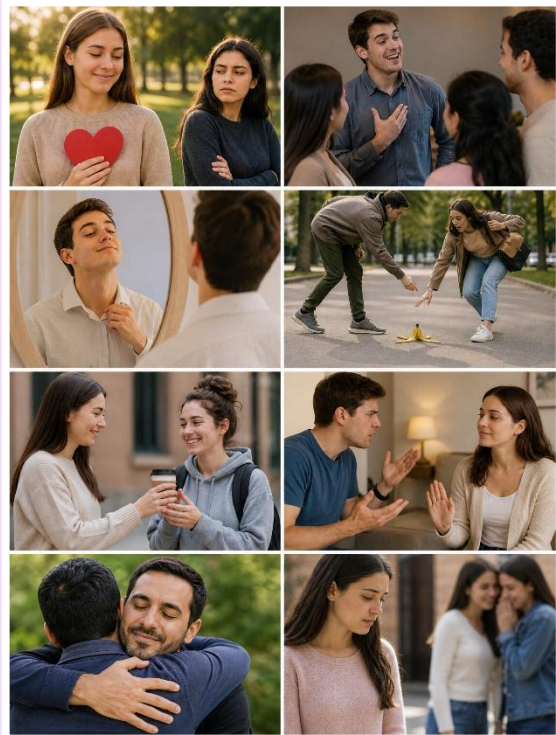
hypomenō: to resist, to endure, to have fortitude, to persevere

Endure hardships, trials, and persecution



WHAT LOVE DOES NOT DO

"[...] love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity [...]" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)



It does not
envy

zeloō: to have a
burning feeling

It does not envy those who
have other gifts or virtues

It does not
parade itself

perpereuomai : to boast, to
brag

It does not want to be
praised by others

It is not puffed
up

fysioō: to swell up, to
become proud

It does not have an
exaggerated view of himself

It does not
behave rudely

asjēmoneō: to act
improperly

It does not act against
social and moral norms

It does not
seek his own

zēteō: to search

It gives up his rights for the
good of others

It is not
provoked

paroxynō : to sharpen
something to irritate,
incite or exasperate

It is neither irascible nor
overly sensitive

It thinks no evil

logizomai : take inventory

It forgives and disregards
offenses received

It does not
rejoice in
iniquity

jairō: to be cheerful,
happy, or to feel well

It does not rejoice in
mistakes, but seeks to
correct them

A PORTRAIT OF JESUS

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

He endured beatings, insults, and contempt (Matt. 27:27-31)

He suffers long



He cared about anyone who was suffering

He is kind



He taught the truth with clarity and conviction

He rejoices in the truth



He did not judge the sinful woman and granted her forgiveness (John 8:10-11)

He bears all things



He trusted in the sincerity of Zacchaeus (Lk. 19:8-9)

He believes all things



He prepared 12 men for an "impossible" mission

He hopes all things



He endured hunger, rejection, pain, and persecution

He endures all things



A PORTRAIT OF JESUS

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

He did not seek honors, and he associated with the humble

He does not envy



Although he was the King of the Universe, he did not boast about it

He does not parade itself



He was willing to do the humblest jobs

He is not puffed up



He treated everyone with courtesy and propriety

He does not behave rudely



He always did the will of his Father (Jn. 6:38)

He does not seek his own



Even when they struck him, he responded with courtesy (John 18:22-23)

He is not provoked



He asked forgiveness for those who crucified him (Lk. 23:34)

He thinks no evil



He spoke harshly to the unjust Pharisees (Mt. 23:27-28)

He does not rejoice in iniquity



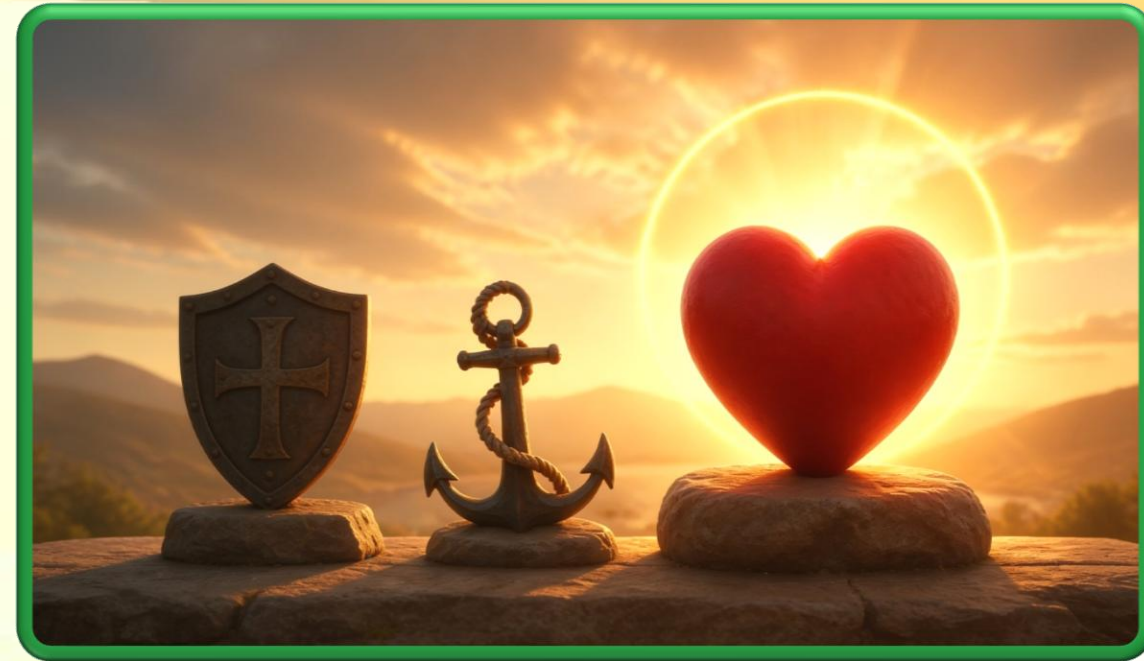
THE PERSEVERANCE OF LOVE



THE GREATEST OF VIRTUES

**"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."
(1 Corinthians 13:13)**

The Corinthians were showing by their attitude what love does not do: they were envious; boastful; vain; they acted improperly; they were selfish; they were easily irritated; they were spiteful; and they tolerated sin. Like them, we must abandon these faults and abound in the virtues of love, as Paul teaches us, in order to use spiritual gifts correctly. He also invites us to abide in two other virtues: faith and hope.



**When Jesus comes, sin will cease to exist, and we will enjoy eternal life with Him. Then, prophecy, tongues, and other gifts, along with faith and hope, will no longer be necessary. But love will endure forever
(1 Corinthians 13:8).**

“God is love. The love of the Father and the Son is an attribute of every believer. The Word of God is the channel through which divine love is communicated to man. God’s truth is the medium by which the intellect is reached. The Holy Spirit is given to the human agent who works in cooperation with divine agencies. It transforms mind and character, enabling man to endure as seeing Him who is invisible. Perfect love can be enjoyed only through the belief of the truth and the reception of the Holy Spirit.”

EGW (Our Father Cares, October 9)