

# Love

**TEXT:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**KEY VERSE:** And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. — Colossians 3:14

Someone has said, “Love is properly the image of God in the soul; for God is love. By faith we receive from our Maker; by hope we expect a future and eternal good; but by love we resemble God; and by it alone are we qualified to enjoy Heaven and be one with Him throughout eternity.” Love is the fulfilling of the Law. The Law did not have power to change men’s lives, but Christ, who is love personified, did!

**1.** The first three verses of our text reveal that many good things can be absolutely worthless without love—the Christlike kind of love. List these good qualities opposite the verses below.

1 Corinthians 13:1

1 Corinthians 13:2

1 Corinthians 13:3

**2.** Pick two or more of the qualities named above. How can these qualities be shown without love (that is, with a wrong motive)?

**3.** Question 2 developed how certain human qualities can be exercised without the presence of divine love. Now show the merit of these qualities when divine love is present.

**4.** In verses 4-7, we are given the elements of love—those of which Christian love is made. Each of these elements can be given common names: they are virtues which we hear about often. And with Christ in our hearts they can be practiced by every person in every situation in life. Alongside each of the elements listed on the next page, write a synonym that is more familiar in our day.

Love suffereth long . . . Beareth all things

And is kind

Love envieth not (Clue: think positive)

Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up

Doth not behave itself unseemly

Seeketh not her own

Is not easily provoked

Thinketh no evil

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth

in the truth

Believeth all things

Hopeth all things

Endureth all things

5. List three things mentioned in verse 8 to which divine love is superior. Why?

6. "Now and then," is an expression in modern English language. Find two instances in our text where these words are used. Contrast the *now* with the *then*.

7. In your estimation why would the Apostle declare that divine love is the greatest attribute?