

The Most Excellent Way Pt. 7- Love Always

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." Acts 8:18-19

We project our values on Heaven and think that what is important here must be important there.

We prefer to move through life with enough of the Holy Spirit to stay out of trouble but not enough to change our lives.

"May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! 21 You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." Acts 8:20-23

To be dismissive and inattentive of others in need can be as equally unloving as harboring resentment and bitterness.

7 It (Love) always protects, 1 Corinthians 13:7a

Love does its best to shield others from any unnecessary exposure, ridicule or harm.

(Love) always trusts. 1 Corinthians 13:7b

Love will give credit for the most positive motivation possible.

(Love) always hopes. 1 Corinthians 13:7c

Love believes that as long as God's is Grace is available, failure does not have have the final word in a person's life.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. Luke 15:20

(Love) always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:7d

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 1 Corinthians 13:8

Love for God and love for one another are eternal.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

The measure of our love for others must be measured in Christ's love for us.

Jesus is patient, Jesus is kind. he does not envy, he does not boast, he is not proud. He does not dishonor others, he is not self-seeking, he is not easily angered, he keeps no record of wrongs. Jesus does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Jesus never fails.

People judge Jesus based on their relationships with the people who serve Him.