

## **The Long and Lasting Power of Love** **I Corinthians 13:1-7**

**Review-** Paul has finished *excoriating* the Corinthians concerning their desire for exhibition of the visible and verbal gifts. He then *expounds* the importance of the proper attitude and action of spiritual gifts. He concludes with an *exhortation* to seek not only the greater gifts (12:31a) but also a more excellent way (12:31b) Paul begins to *extol* the perfection of love. As a working definition I submit John E Mitchell's words-

“Love is sincerely desiring Gods very best for someone and doing what ever you can, to see it come about.”

### **The Power of Words**

The word of God is made up of words. As evangelicals we believe the words of God – the bible- are inspired- God Breathed. (2 Tim 3:16, II Peter 1:20) We also believe that as such the bible is infallible and inerrant. This means it is true even down to each word that is in the original autographs of the bible. NT words have a field or range of meaning. Hence there is room for overlap. It is dangerous to assume that there is only one meaning for each word. We know this from English, Latin and both of the biblical languages follow this pattern. However, each word can have distinctiveness, and this is what we need to find in order to determine the authors intent within each sentence. One of the more important words used and abused is LOVE

### **I. The Preeminence of Love 13:1-3**

A. Tongues with out Love is Futile 13:1

B. Prophecy and Faith without Love is Futile 13:2

C. Service without Love is Futile :3

### **II. The Perfection of Love 13:4-7**

A. What Love Does Do (Cycle One)

Patient

Kind

B. What Love Does Not Do

1. Not Jealous
  2. Not Brag
  3. Not Arrogant
  4. Does not act unbecomingly
  5. Does not seek its own
  6. Is not provoked
  7. Does not take into account a wrong suffered
  8. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness BUT Rejoices in Truth
- C. What Love Does (Cycle Two)
1. Bears All Things
  2. Believes All Things
  3. Hopes All Things
  4. Endures All Things

### **Summary**

The hallmark of Love is to endure by hoping for and knowing the things you believe. (Heb 11:1). This is evidenced or manifested by kindness and patience with people. Not by being self oriented arrogant or rude.

Love is a profound concern for the well being of another, without any desire to control that other, to be thanked by that other, or to enjoy the process.

### **Spiritual Life Evaluation Questions**

1. In what way are you growing in the manifestation of your love?
2. What part of Paul's positive list is hardest for you to do?
3. What part of Paul's negative list is too much with you?