

INTRODUCTION

"Love" - charity; a choice; choose to be benevolent to another; display of regard.

Love involves action: (John 3:16) "God so loved the world, that he gave ... "

(John 14:15) "If you love me, keep my commandments"

(1 Thess. 1:3) "**labor of love**"

(1 John 3:10) "**whosoever doeth not righteousness ... loves not his brother**"

(John 13:34) "... that ye love one another, as I have loved you ... "

1. LOVE IS BEST - (1 Cor. 12:31) "show I unto you a more excellent way"
(1 Cor. 13:13) "the greatest of these is love" (1 Peter 4:8) "and above all things ..."

2. (1 Cor. 13:1-3) LOVE IS LISTED ABOVE THE GIFTS

"tongues ... prophecy ... understand all mysteries ... have all faith ... feed the poor ...
give my body to be burned" **"and have not love"** "sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal ...
I am nothing ... it profits me nothing"

3. (v4-8) THE BEHAVIOR OF LOVE

"suffers long" - be slow to lose patience; it's a fruit of the Spirit.

"is kind" - be like Jesus (Acts 10:38) "who went about doing good"

"does not envy" - (Prov. 14:30) "envy is rottenness of the bones"

"vaunts not itself" - is not self-promoting; does not advertise itself ("Hey, look at me.")

"is not puffed up" - inflated with its own self-wroth; conceited; a blow-hard.

"does not behave itself unseemly" - is discreet; proper conduct; not two-faced.

"seeks not its own" - centered on others; second mile; do more than expected.

"is not easily provoked" - not "easily" irritated by habits of others; good disposition.

"thinks no evil" - innocent until proven guilty. (Phil. 4:8)

"rejoices not in unrighteousness" - not happy hearing about another's transgression.

"rejoices in the truth" - (2 John v4)

"bears all things" - strengthens others; may have to grin 'n bear it myself; keep quiet.

"believes all things" - don't forsake the truth of God's word.

"hopes ... endures ... never fails"