

SERMON NOTES  
4/19/2026

"A MORE EXCELLENT WAY"

(1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8)

## INTRODUCTION

"Love" - charity; a choice; choose to seek the best for another; show 'n tell.

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

(John 14:15) "If you love Me, keep My commandments"

(Thessalonians 1:3) "labor of love"

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

1. LOVE IS BEST - (1 Cor. 12:31) "... and yet I show you a more excellent way"  
(Cor. 13:13) "greatest of these is love" (1 Peter 4:5) "and above all things have fervent love"

## 2. (1 Cor. 13:1-3) LOVE IS A REQUIREMENT

"Tongues ... prophecy ... understand all mysteries ... have all faith ... feed the poor ...  
give my body to be burned" "but have not love" "I have become a sounding brass or a  
clanging cymbal ... I am nothing ... it profits me nothing"

## 3. (v4 - 8) THE BEHAVIOR OF LOVE

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

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

"and does not envy" - (Proverbs 14:30) "envy is rottenness of the bones"

"does not parade itself" - is not self-promoting; does not say, "Hey, look at me."

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

"does not behave rudely" - is discreet; proper conduct; good manners; considerate.

"does not seek its own" - centered on others; do unto others; help others to shine.

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

"thinks no evil" - innocent until proven guilty; focus on good; (Philippians 4:8)

"does not rejoice in iniquity" - not happy hearing about another's transgression.

"but rejoices in the truth" - happy hearing about others walking uprightly; (2 John v4).

"bears all things" - support others; maybe grin 'n bear it myself; keep quiet.

"believes all things" - but don't forsake the truth of God's word; be a believer.

"endures all things" - be sure your love lasts; don't let love wear out or be removed.

"love never fails" - there is no law against loving rightly; put it into practice;  
this love does not lose its beauty, value, or reward.