

What Is Love?

I Corinthians 13 Robert McRoberts, August 21, 2022

A. Love is _____

1 Corinthians 13:1-2, and 4-7.

A project: www.jointhekindnesschallenge.com

1. Convey nothing negative
2. Say one thing to praise or affirm in the person.
3. Do one small act of kindness for the person.

B. Love is _____ or _____ the right kind of person.

1 Corinthians 13:3, 4-7. 15 character traits

A family project:

- Discern a character quality for each statement.
- Define the quality.
- Memorize the definition.
- Discover a Bible verse or story that exemplifies each one.
- Design projects to encourage development of each one.

Paul's list, beginning with 2 positive qualities:

1. Love is patient: _____
2. Love is kind: _____

Then follow 8 negative traits. (Think of the opposite of each)

1. It does not envy: _____
2. It does not boast: _____
3. It is not proud: _____
4. It is not rude: _____
5. It is not self-seeking: _____
6. It is not easily angered: _____
7. It keeps no record of wrongs: _____
8. Love does not delight in evil: _____

The list ends with 5 positive qualities:

1. But rejoices with the truth: _____
2. It always protects: _____
3. Always trusts: _____
4. Always hopes: _____
5. Always perseveres: _____

C. Love _____

1 Corinthians 13:8a, 9-12

Love never fails is a statement of the permanence of love contrasted with the impermanence of spiritual gifts.

Paul's teaching on spiritual gifts is given in 1 Corinthians 12-14.

He interrupts his presentation of these gifts to put them in their proper perspective.

- 12:31 & 14:1. It is not enough to desire gifts; must pursue love.
- 13:1-3. Without love, the gifts have no value.
- 13:4-7. A description of several characteristics of love.
- 13:8. The final characteristic of love: it is permanent.
- 13:9-12. But gifts are impermanent. Why? Because:
 - vs 9. our present knowledge and prophesying are partial.
 - vs 10. some day *perfection* will replace *imperfect* gifts.
 - vs 11. some day we will reach maturity.
 - vs 12. now we see *a poor reflection*; we do not see God *face to face*.

Two Applications regarding the permanence of love:

1. For an individual: **John 3:16**

S.I.N: S _____ I _____ N _____.

John 3:16 challenges a person to **ACT**:

- A.** _____ sin.
- C.** _____ one's mind/will/heart toward God.
- T.** _____ Christ as Saviour and Lord.

2. For a community of faith.

The experience of Elias Chacour, from his autobiography, *Blood Brothers*. Baker Books, Grand Rapids 2013.