

Studies in Christianity Christian Love #22

S#1.

Love Endure All Things

S#2.

Text : **I Corinthians 12:20 –13:8**

A. This series on Love has been a joy to prepare.

1. Love is the best aspect of Christianity.
2. It is what most distinguishes the Christian from the world. S#3.
John 13: 35 – By this all men will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.
3. It is the key to knowing God.
I John 4: 8 – The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. S#4.
4. It is the most important command ever given by God.
 - a. **Matt. 22:37** – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with S#5.
all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** “This is the great and
foremost commandment. **39** “The second is like it, ‘You shall
love your neighbor as yourself.”
 - b. Notice this love is NOT an emotion ... **It is commanded**. Feelings can’t be ..
5. Though this love is a command, it must be obeyed from the heart.
 - a. **Matt. 15: 8** – This people honors Me with their lips, S#6.
but their heart is far away from Me.
 - b. Thus, **Agape** is not purely an emotion, but it must come from one’s heart.
 - c. God will accept only true devotion.

B. Our last few lessons have been taken from I Corinthians 13:4–7.

1. These four verses are **descriptive**, **not prescriptive**. S#7.
2. That is to say that they do not contain a command to love.
3. In these verses the Holy Spirit describes what **Agape** (i.e., love)
looks like when it is being practiced among brethren.

C. Chapter 13 is strategically placed between two chapters dealing with division.

1. Division **CANNOT** exist when there is **Agape**.
2. Before describing love, the Spirit emphasizes the importance of love.
 - a. It is more importance than speaking in tongues.
 - b. It is more important than the best spiritual gift, prophecy.
 - c. It is more important than the highest level of faith.

- d. It is more important doing good works.
- e. It is more important being faithful in martyrdom.

D. After establishing the importance of love, He says, “*This is how it’s practiced.*”

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| 1. Be Patient | 8. Don’t be short tempered |
| 2. Be Kind | 9. Don’t hold grudges |
| 3. Don’t be jealous | 10. Don’t be happy when others fall short |
| 4. Don’t brag | 11. Rejoice when others do well |
| 5. Don’t be arrogant | 12. Support others and cover their faults. |
| 6. Don’t be rude | 13. Always think the best of others |
| 7. Don’t be selfish | 14. Always optimistically desire the best. |

This lesson : Hang in there when times are hard

E. All of these descriptions are like a rainbow.

S#8.

- 1. A rainbow is formed when moisture in the atmosphere refracts light like a prism.
- 2. One beam of white light is divided into its component colors to form a rainbow..
- 3. Though separated, the various colors fade into each other.
- 4. This last line of verbs or adverbs especially bleed into each other :
 Bears all ... Believes all ... Hopes all ... Endures all
Stegō pas ... Pisteuō pas ... Elpizō pas ... hypomenō pas

F. Our lesson will focus on the last of these ... Love “endures all things”

S#9.

- 1. What endure means
- 2. What endurance is not
- 3. The scope of endurance
- 4. Some examples of love enduring

I. What does it mean to “endure all things?”

S#10.

A. The need to endure is referenced more than 30 times in the N. T.

- 1. Endure translates the word *hypoménō* (ὑπομένω) Strong’s #5278
- 2. The literal meaning is : *remaining under* (the load), bearing up (enduring);
- 3. It also indicates : to undergo, to persevere, to have fortitude
- 4. In secular use it was a military term which referred to a soldier who stood his ground in the heat of battle without retreating.

S#11.

- a. It implied the ability to exert sufficient power to stand strong.
- b. One writer describes it as, “*Equal part patience and courage.*”
- c. Of hupoménō Charles Hodge said, “Properly a military term which means to sustain the assault of an enemy. Hence it is used in the N.T. to express the idea of sustaining the assaults of suffering and persecution and in the sense of bearing up under them.”

B. The endurance of love is more than the ability to just hang on until the storm passes.

- 1. It is easy to love people who reciprocate love, **but** what about those who delight in making you uncomfortable, embarrassed, frustrated, etc.
Luke 6: 27 – But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (*boss, schoolmate. bro in Christ*) S#12.
- 2. The Apostle was often not loved even by those he had brought to Christ.
I Cor. 9: 12 – If others share the right over you, do we not more? S#13.
 Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.
- 3. Commenting on this one writer said, “Love has a tenacity (*endurance*) in the present buoyed by confidence in the future that enables it to live in every kind of circumstance and continually to pour itself out on behalf of others.”

C. In today’s America this kind of love is totally countercultural.

- 1. In today’s culture the common attitude is “*If I’m getting what I want, I will respond with love.*”
- 2. In counseling it is common to hear, “*How can I love him / her / them, they are not treating me right.*”
- 3. In counseling class we were taught to tell clients who said he/she could not love his/her mate as a spouse to love him/her as a friend and then if he/she said he/she said they couldn’t love him/her as a friend, to love t him/her as an enemy. ☺
- 4. **Romans 5** ... Jesus died for us while we were sinners, while we were enemies.

II. What are some things enduring love is not ?

S#14.

A. Christian love is not to be patterned after the love of the world.

- 1. The love of the world is a worthless counterfeit.
- 2. Christian love is not self-centered and self-gratifying.
- 3. Christian love is not based upon emotion or circumstances.

B. Love enduring all things doesn't imply that we must be helpless victims. S#15.

1. Enduring Christian love doesn't stop in tough times, but isn't just passive acceptance
2. When you are being abused it is acceptable to flee.
 - a. **Luke 4: 27** – And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; **29** and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. **30** But passing through their midst, He went His way.
 - b. **Acts 8: 4** – And on that day a great persecution began against the church in **S#16.** Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

C. Love that endures all things speaks out against sin.

1. Love demands that we reach out to sinners.
 - a. **Gal. 6: 1** – Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. **S#17.**
 - b. **Matt. 18: 15** – If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.
2. The Apostle Paul warned young Timothy about an evil brother.

II Tim. 4: 14 – Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will **S#18.** repay him according to his deeds. **15** Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.
3. Love is not so passive it does not respond to sin.

Eph. 5: 11 – Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

D. Enduring all things does not prevent one from taking advantage of legal rights.

1. **I Corinthians 5** makes it clear that we cannot use the court system against a brother.
2. **Acts 16: 31ff** ... Paul and Silas used their Roman citizenship to force an apology.
3. **Acts 25** ... Paul used his citizenship to prevent his being tried in Jerusalem.

III. What is the scope of love's endurance ?**S#19.
S#20.****A. There is no limit to the demands on love to endure under any/all circumstances****B. Christian love endures unexpected spiritual and physical trials.**

1. **James 1: 2** – Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various **S#21.** trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

2. Notice these trials are allowed by God as a way to increase our faith.
3. **Acts 14: 22** – they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, **22** strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

C. Christian love endures hostile people and even inconsiderate brethren. S#22.

1. We're commanded to put aside worldly behavior, but people in the world practice it.
I Pet. 2: 1 – Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, **2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that
2. The old man has a way of trying to reach out of that watery grave.
3. Inadvertent slights often occur and must be endured (*your name left out of list*)

D. Though we understand God's love and His sovereignty, we often struggle to understand how He could allow the righteous to suffer. S#23.

E. If we seek to live godly, we must endure persecutions.

1. **II Tim. 3: 12** – Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
2. Thousands of people are still being killed every year for name the name of Jesus.
3. In this country persecutions are more subtle and not deadly.
 - a. Loss of jobs or failure to be promoted
 - b. Ridicule and / or social isolation
 - c. Vandalisms to property
 - d. Referring to these minor persecutions, one writer described it poetically, "On the way to the final death, life is pockmarked by many minor deaths."

IV. The bible is replete with examples of those whose love endured.

**S#24.
S#25.**

A. The prophet Jeremiah love His people and loved God though much suffering.

B. After much suffering, the Apostle Paul still loves the churches, e.g., ..

I Thes. 2:8 – Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

C. Jesus is the ultimate example of love.

1. **Luke 3:34** – O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!

S#26.

2. Jesus loved others from the cross.

- a. **John 19: 26** – When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom S#27.
He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, " Woman, behold, your son!" **27** Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!"
From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.
- b. **Luke 23:34** – ... there they crucified Him **34** But Jesus was saying,
"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

CONCLUSION :

A. Thus, we have seen that love “endures all things” is not just the secret of escape, but the power to -*
astand in the face of whatever Satan throws at us.

B. The road we are traveling on the way to Heaven requires much endurance.

- 1. **Heb. 12: 1** – Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses S#28.
surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 2. The same joy set before Jesus which motivated Him to endure should motivate us.

C. When we were baptized, we all received the Holy Spirit as a gift. S#29.

- 1. **Acts 2: 38** – Peter said to them, " Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 2. When the Holy Spirit entered our lives it began producing a fruit.
Gal. 5: 22 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

D. We are a loving church, may we never stop becoming more so.

- I Thes. 4: 9** – Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone S#30.
to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;
10 for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more.

INVITATION : You are receiving God’s love.
Have you responded to it.

S#31.

Is the Spirit teaching you to love ?

S#32.

... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**I Corinthians 12: 20**

20 But now there are many members, but one body. **21** And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." **22** On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; **23** and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, **24** whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, **25** so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. **26** And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. **29** All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? **30** All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? **31** But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

And I show you a still more excellent way.

13 : 1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

J.B. Phillips .. Paraphrase (1960s)

I Cor.13: 4-8a

13:4 - This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience - it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

13:5-6 - Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails.

13:7-8a - Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.