

## Study of 1 Corinthians 13 – Feb. 16, 2022 – Week 3

**Written by Paul, to the church. Contemporary English Version.**

13:6-8 – “Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. 7 Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. 8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.”

### **Reminder - this isn't for couples, it's for the church. Agape Love**

This should be how we treat all people. All relationships build on this.

Love is who God is, He doesn't change based on who is before Him.

Our challenge is to be consistent, constant, & changeless.

### **1 – Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.**

- Paul wrote to church in Corinth b/c of squabbles, unchanged living.
  - **1 Cor. 5** – living wrong. “It is actually reported that there is sexual sin among you. I'm told that a man is sleeping with his father's wife. Even people who don't know God don't let that kind of sin continue. <sup>2</sup> And you are proud! Shouldn't you be very sad instead?”
- Arguments can lead to hard feelings. Don't care anymore...
- Hurts can lead to vengeance. “Get what's coming...”
- But LOVE wants **what is best for the person.**
  - Love can't stand for bad things to happen. Disappointments.
  - Love isn't happy when someone's life is a mess.
    - Paul's letter to Corinth urges change. Points to truth in love.
    - **Eph. 4:15** – “speaking the truth in a spirit of love”
  - You can have truth w/o love, but you can't have love w/o truth
    - Truth w/o love makes it a weapon.
- **What is truth?** A “verified or indisputable fact.” Or is it a person?
  - Jesus tells Thomas: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”
  - Jesus said: “I have come into the world to testify to the truth.”
  - O.T. refers to the Almighty as the “God of truth” (Is. 65:16)

- David – **Psalm 31:5** – “Into Your hands I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.”
- **TRUTH is that which is consistent w/ the mind, will, character, and nature of God.**
  - This world: fake news, twist truth, creates chaos.
  - But God’s way of life is truth.
- Love rejoices when a loved one is walking w/Jesus; living for Him; being a consistent, growing Christian.
- Love rejoices when lives get turned around. **Matt. 18:13** - Love “rejoices more over that 1 sheep than over the 99 that did not go astray.”
- **3 John 1:3-4** – “For I was overjoyed when the brothers came and testified about your devotion to the truth, in which you continue to walk. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

## 2 – Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting.

- **Supports** dreams & goals. Supports growth & maturity.
  - Be an encourager to one you love. Don’t be negative; fault finder.
  - You may not understand... still support, still love.
- **Loyal** – a strong feeling of support or allegiance; devotion, faithfulness
  - Stand by another and take a stand for you; protects.
    - *“Loyalty is not about who acts true to your face; it’s about who remains true behind your back.”*
  - Never abandon. Stay in good times & bad. Be as loyal as your dog
- **Hopeful** – full of hope for another.
  - Hope: more than a wish/desire; a confident belief in the unseen.
  - “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, evid of things unseen
    - Faith & hope go hand in hand. We hope for what we can’t see
  - Hope sees potential; has confidence in them (and God)
    - World has far too many “Debbie Downers”
  - Love points to brighter days ahead. Hope for the future.
  - Love is a lifeline that the hurting can hold on to.

- **Trusting.** Love “always trusts” (NIV) or “believes all things” (ESV).
  - Trust is hard if you’ve been hurt before.
  - But - **Love always believes in the other person.**
    - Don’t second-guess or keep questioning.
    - Won’t be suspicious; slow to believe any damaging news.
    - You believe the best. Assume good intentions.
    - Give the benefit of the doubt.
  - Love is willing to trust. Love extends second chances.
  - “If you are always suspicious and uncertain, then love is lacking.”
    - People grow with Trust. It’s positive encouragement
    - To hurt another... keep doubting; mistrust. (Keeps in past)
  - Love doesn’t write someone off when they fail/meet expectations.
    - Love picks you up and says: “I will trust you again” . . . . says: “I have not given up on you.” “I still believe in you.”
    - **If love is trust . . . then you don’t earn it.** Freely given.
    - “You’re a child of God, therefore you deserve another opportunity to succeed.” God believes in our potential.

### 3 – Love Never Ends... Never Fails

- Love doesn’t give up. It doesn’t quit or walk away. It perseveres.
- Love endures through every circumstance. (NLT)
- God’s Love is **unconditional**. NO conditions. So we keep loving when...
  - To walk away says: “You’re hopeless.” You’re not worth it.
  - But love not ending is about us, not the other person.
    - **God loves b/c He is love.** Object of His love doesn’t alter it.
    - That’s why His love keeps loving, forever.
- Eventually our jobs end; knowledge fades; inspiration lacks.
  - Prophecy, tongues, & knowledge are temporary. Love will last.
  - Love, like God, is eternal.
  - **Romans 8** - Nothing can separate us from God’s eternal love.
    - Can we say the same? Is our love rock solid?
    - It shouldn’t wax/wane. It shouldn’t ebb/flow. Love stays.

Song of the week – “Love Never Fails” by Brandon Heath

Stay positive. Test negative. Get Vaccinated. Love better. 4 U in 22.