

Now that we have defined love we need to be able to apply it. What does it look like in real life? What should it look like when we are interacting with our fellow man? Paul's inspired list in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 should serve as our barometer:

- ***Love is long-suffering.*** This means we practice restraint. We don't retaliate against a wrong. Even when tempers flare and harsh words are spoken, we practice self-control. This is love.
- ***Love is kind.*** We are not to be snappy and rude. We are not accusatory or caustic. Instead, we are gentle and gracious. Love is good to others.
- ***Love does not envy.*** There is no bitterness or jealousy in true love.
- ***Love does not parade itself.*** True love does not offer a place for bragging. We are never to flaunt accomplishments to others.
- ***Love is not puffed up.*** Love has no place for arrogance either. We cannot carry an inflated sense of self.
- ***Love does not behave rudely.*** There is never a time as a Christian when we can be indecent to others. Our demeanor should always represent Christ.
- ***Love does not seek its own.*** Remember that real love works for the best interests of others. We do not impose our will on others or put them under us. Instead we seek to love others as ourselves.
- ***Love is not provoked.*** We cannot carry a grudge, fly into fights of rage or resent others.
- ***Love does not think evil.*** Love doesn't dwell on the offenses of others (and plot revenge).
- ***Love does not rejoice in iniquity.*** Love does not find joy in sin and destruction. We can never rejoice in the misery or failure of others.
- ***Love rejoices in the truth.*** Our true delight is in the truth.
- ***Love bears all things.*** Real love works like a crutch for others; we are to help support others in their weaknesses.
- ***Love believes all things.*** We are to believe the best about people. While we are not to be gullible, we must always assume the best intentions in others.
- ***Love hopes all things.*** We are to look always for the best outcome in every situation and out of our fellow man. Love is not pessimistic.
- ***Love endures all things.*** Even in the worst of times, when circumstances are the hardest, love guides us in our actions.

Let us do our best to mimic the love of God because love is the way we will be identified as disciples of Jesus (John 13:34-35).

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“What is love?” (Conclusion)

David B. Smith

4. Agape love is a choice. The only way real love can exist in spite of circumstances is that it is a choice. Love is a decision. Just like God loved us before we could reciprocate (Jn. 4:19), we are expected to do the same. God made a decision to do what is in our best interest even though His Son would be mistreated, rejected and murdered (Rom. 5:6-10). Jesus made clear many times that going to the cross was His choice (John 10:17-18). It was love that kept Him on that tree and not the nails. This is what keeps love constant and true. This is what makes love dependable and necessary. We choose to love no matter what.

- **Johnnie Perry** has shoulder replacement surgery scheduled for Tuesday at Parkridge Hospital. You may recall that she injured her shoulder in a fall while at work. Pray that this restores full mobility and relief from any pain.
- **Tina Brown** is now at home recovering from surgery to remove a large malignant abdominal tumor.
- **Susie Hargis** got some good news recently. Although it has been several months since she received chemotherapy, there has been no growth of her tumors.

Prayer List

James Anderson	Judy Lusk	Tim Randolph
Patricia Anthony	Tommie Grandfield	Tony Miller
Jim Bethune	Bill Greer	Lexi Owens
Nancy Birch	Fred Hafley	Tina Brown
Mike Bouldin	Kathy Hamilton	Janice Smith
Susie Hargis	Bessie Smithson	Steve Gaines
Grayson Ledbetter	Diane Stacy	Loretta Leffew
John Webster	Juanita Johnson	

Sympathy

Dot Bryant, Sue Swafford’s sister-in-law and aunt to JB Swafford died on Wednesday. It was just over three weeks that she was diagnosed with malignant brain tumors and she was placed under hospice care. Keep her family in your prayers at this time as they deal with her passing.

Memorial Service: As you may recall, our brother **Clint Hopkins** passed away just as the Corona virus appeared; therefore, there was no service and all prior plans were canceled. There will now be a Memorial Service for Clint here at the building on Saturday, August 29 at 2:00 p.m. Kaye invites all who wish to meet at that time.

Sunday’s Sermon: This Sunday David continues the series, “War of the Worlds.” Romans 1:18-25 will be the text as the basis for this week’s sermon. Look over this and see what this war may entail. Next Sunday will be lesson four in the series “War of the Worlds” taken from the text found in 2 Timothy 3: 16-17.

Angels: What do we know about angels? Tune in to YouTube or Facebook on Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. David’s Wednesday evening lessons now deal with the subject of angels. While there are things we don’t know, you may be surprised as what the Bible does reveal about angels.

Additions to the Church and to North Hamilton:

- North Hamilton has reason to rejoice following the baptism of **Amanda Benjamin** this past Sunday just after the conclusion of the morning’s service. As the Lord has added her to His church, we welcome her into our family at North Hamilton.
- **Jonathan Rinkel** came to the building Saturday morning where he was baptized into Christ. Art Greer officiated at the wedding of Jonathan and Art’s niece Caroline recently, and he also baptized Jonathan Saturday morning. David and Jonathan have studied together on several occasions, and we again rejoice with Jonathan’s decision.

Live Stream is Coming: Several months ago, Brad Jones ordered a camera for us to use to film our services. As with many other things, it was backordered but has now arrived. After some installation necessities, we will be able to have our services on YouTube and Facebook as it occurs with no delay. Brad and Terry Williamson will be working on this, so it should not be too long before we go live with our service(s).

Reminders: Our online worship service is still being posted to Facebook and YouTube each Sunday morning and, for anyone who wishes to do so, contributions can still be made using Venmo: NorthHamilton-ChurchOfChrist or can be mailed as indicated above.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

9 – Nancy Birch

12 – Brenda Laney, Kaye Hopkins

Anniversaries

None this week