



**Living the Great Commandment**

# **A Bible Study**

*By* **Rev. Ernest A. Baker Sr.**



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# Living The Great Commandment

By Pastor. Ernest A. Baker, Sr.

## Introduction

Welcome to the **Living the Great Commandment** Bible study! Mark 12:28-30 records a discussion between Jesus and a scribe. The scribe asked Jesus which of the Commandments was the most significant. From a scribe's perspective in that day, the "commandments" represented upwards of six hundred laws and statutes. Jesus' response to the question was: "...you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**". Essentially, Jesus was conveying to humanity by extension that the most important duty of man is to unconditionally and sacrificially adore and reverence Almighty God with our entire being! This preeminent mandate is commonly referred to as the "Great Commandment". The very fact that this Commandment was stated from the very mouth of Jesus...God in the flesh, must arrest our attention and initiate a sincere and intentional pursuit of what this Divine instructive requires of the Believer.

In this study, we will endeavor to explore the meaning of "The Great Commandment" by gleaning from the Scriptures, truths relative to this Divine requirement for the Believer. The word "Love" in the text of Mark 12:30, is translated from the Greek word **agape**, and is basically defined as **unconditional and sacrificial affection and compassion toward another**. This is the love that the Believer is called to have for our Lord as well as for others (Cp. Mark 12:31), and is the Love He has for humanity (Cp. John 3:16; Romans 5:8). This love is also expected of the Believer within relationships such as Marriage, and even toward those who are considered enemies. This "Great Commandment" obviously must shape the very fabric of the Christian's life, hence the emphasis upon "living" it out in this world. We will also explore characteristics of this Divine love by exploring First Corinthians the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter; that beloved and renown passage of the Holy Bible that provides information regarding what this love looks like lived out by the Believer in this world. May the Holy Spirit be our Teacher as we embark upon this very important subject matter.

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love The Lord With All Your Heart” Pt. 1 (Mark 12:30; Matthew 6:21 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### I. Introduction

#### A. Word(s) Defined

1. Heart - The “seat” of consciousness, thought, volition, inner being, attitude, and understanding.
2. Treasure - That which one values and esteems highly.

Our Lord has commanded us to love our Heavenly Father with all of our “heart”. Hence, it is necessary for us to define its meaning as distinct from the “soul” and “mind”, to the end that we may properly apply it within the context of the “Great Commandment”. The word “heart” translated into English from the Greek rendering “*kardia*” has many synonyms and connotations, however, for the purpose of this study consider the following components of the heart:

#### B. The Composition Of The Heart

1. Affections - fond attachment; devotion.
2. Emotions - an affective state of consciousness in which joy, sorrow, fear, hate or the like is experienced.
3. Will - the power of control the mind has over its own actions. The power of choosing one’s own actions.

*“To regulate the heart, it is therefore important that the treasure, or object of attachment, should be right.”* (Barnes’ Notes on the New Testament)

We are informed by the Lord in our scripture text (i.e. Matthew 6:21) as to how to locate the heart, with which we are to love the Father. As we explore its “place” or location, we will first consider the “challenge”.

## II. Love The Lord With All Your Heart

### A. The Challenge

1. The wickedness of the heart
  - *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9)
  - Matthew 15:18-20
2. Nevertheless, we must love Him with ALL of our hearts i.e. our
  - Affections
  - Emotions
  - Will

### B. The Place Of The Heart

1. Where one's "treasure" is.
  - the object of, and subsequent attachment to the heart (i.e. the affections, emotions, and will).
  - Matthew 19:16-22
2. Love with the heart for and toward the Father as described in this study is "WORSHIP"!!!

**NOTE:** See Part 2 of this study for further explanation on the significance of worship within this "Great Commandment".

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. Define the word "heart".
2. Define the word "treasure".

List the three things that comprise the "heart" mentioned in this study, and explain/define each of them.

3.

4.

5.

6. What is the central challenge to loving the Lord with all of our hearts?

7. What adjustments could you make regarding the priorities of your life, that will enable loving our Lord with all of your heart even more attainab



# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love The Lord With All Your Heart” Pt. 2 (John 4:23-24; Matthew 6:21 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### I. Introduction

#### A. Word(s) Defined

1. Heart - The “seat” of consciousness, thought, volition, inner being, attitude, and understanding.
3. Treasure - That which one values and esteems highly.
4. Worship - “worth” - “shape” i.e. “to shape worth”.

It has been established in the previous study that loving God with our entire “heart” is a mandate expressed in the Great Commandment. Loving our Lord God with the entire heart requires a surrendering of our affections, emotions, and will, to the Lordship of Christ and His Word. A life that loves the Lord with all of the heart is a life expressing worship. Godly worship is homage and reverence of and toward our Heavenly Father with the totality of our lives. Worship should not be confused with praise (when they are not used interchangeably) as it is the outward expression of a life that “treasures” (Cp. Matthew 6:21) the essence and Person of Almighty God. Consider the following regarding *worship* and *idolatry*:

#### C. Worship

1. God commands worship (Cp. Matthew 4:10; Deuteronomy 6:13)
2. A life of Godly worship produces Godly “praise”.
3. Idolatry is the enemy of worship.

#### D. Idolatry

1. Image - worship or divine honor paid to any created object. I.e. the “shaping” of “worth” toward any person, place, or thing.
2. Scriptural examples of God’s displeasure with inappropriate worship influenced by idolatry:
  - Cp. Isaiah 1:10-15; 29:13; Amos 5:21-23; Romans 1:21-32

### **III. Points Regarding Appropriate Worship (John 4:23-24)**

#### **A. God Seeks True Worshippers (vs. 23)**

1. Without condition (Cp. Job 1:20-22)
2. As opposed to "false" worshippers.

#### **B. True Worshippers Worship In Spirit (vss. 23-24)**

1. Not through mere outward expression.
2. From the "inner-man" (i.e. where the "heart" is).
3. Because God is Spirit (i.e. immaterial).

#### **C. True Worshippers Worship In Truth (vss. 23-24)**

1. His "Word" is true (Cp. John 17:17).
2. The worship of our lives must be consistent with the Scriptures

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. Define the word "Heart".
2. Define the word "Treasure".
3. Define the word "Worship".
4. Explain/discuss the difference between "*praise*" and "*worship*".
5. How is worship significant in loving our Lord with all of our heart?
6. What is idolatry?
7. What poses an obstacle to genuine worship in your life? How do you plan to address this challenge?

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love The Lord With All Your Soul” (Mark 12:30; Luke 14:26-27 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

The mandate of the “Great Commandment” for the Believer to love our Lord with his entire being is profoundly described in that area of loving Him with “all our SOUL”. The “soul” is the totality of one’s independent life. We will briefly explore the significance of loving our Heavenly Father with such a vital part of our human essence.

### I. Words Defined

A. **Soul** - (Gk.) *psuche* - literally means “breath” or in essence life.

- Translated “soul” 33 times in NASB and 58 times in KJV.
- Translated “life” 36 times in NASB and 40 times in KJV.
- Translated “life” in Luke 14:26, but translated “soul” in Mark 12:30.

B. **Life** - that quality which lends to human beings their distinctive individuality as creatures made in the image of God.

### II. The Composition of the Soul (i.e. “Life”)

#### A. Time (Birth to Death)

1. The “book ends” of one’s existence with respect to eternity.
2. We must be good stewards of it. (Cp. Ephesians 5:15-16)

#### B. Experiences

1. Favorable and unfavorable alike.

#### C. Personality

Examples:

- Caring
- Giving
- Patient
- Modest

- Selfish
- Arrogant
- Lazy
- Problems with authority
- Rambunctious
- Humorous

#### **D. Worldview**

1. i.e. one's personal conception of the world and human life.

#### **E. Relationships**

1. i.e.
  - family
  - romantic
  - recreational, etc...

### **III. The Cost of Loving the Lord With All Your Soul (Luke 14:26-27)**

#### **A. Human Relationships (vs. 26)**

1. "hate" in comparison to our love for the Father.
2. "hate" here i.e. means to "love less". (Cp. Matthew 10:37)

#### **B. Sacrifice of Self (vs. 26)**

1. i.e. one's own life.
2. **Sacrifice** - the act of giving up, destroying, permitting injury to, or foregoing something valued for the sake of something having a more pressing claim. (Webster)

#### **C. Exposure to Suffering (vs. 27)**

1. i.e. living a life that expects challenges because of an intimate and faithful relationship with Christ. (Cp. 1 Peter 4:12-16)

#### **D. Mandatory For Genuine Discipleship (vs. 27)**

*"... he cannot be My disciple ..."*

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. Define the word "Soul".
2. Define the word "Life".
3. What is significant about the usage of the words in both Mark 12:30 and Luke 14:26?

**List five (5) areas that make up the composition of the soul**

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. Define the word "Sacrifice"
10. What challenges if any do you have with the command to "Love the Lord with all your SOUL"? How do you attend to approach/address the challenge(s)?

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love The Lord With All Your Mind” (Mark 12:30; Psalm 1:1-3 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

This “Great Commandment” also requires us to love the Lord our God with ALL our “minds”. It is here where we can observe the fact that this part of this four-fold Divine Mandate is very similar to the previous two; namely the: heart and soul. The obvious point of our Lord regarding our Love for Him is that our entire inner being should have an unconditional and sacrificial affection for, and reverence of Him! Be that as it may, though the heart, soul, and mind may even at times be understood synonymously, we endeavor in this study to explore the meaning of the mind when distinguished from the heart and soul by looking at usages of words in the original language of the New Testament Scriptures that describe the mind in terms of the place of thought and understanding; the process of understanding; and the significance of meditating on God's Word, which is a demonstration of loving Him with our minds!

### I. Introduction

#### A. Words Defined

1. **Mind** - that which thinks, perceives, feels, wills, etc...; The seat or subject of consciousness. (Webster)
  - **Nous** (Gk) - intellect, thought, feeling or will; Understanding.
  - **Dianoia** (Gk) - understanding; disposition, as well as the process of.
  - **Noema** (Gk) - The result of “nous”; i.e. resolve; plan;
  - **Logizomai** (Gk) - to meditate on; consider; weigh; take into account.

#### B. Scripture Usages

- **Romans 12:2** (NASB)
  - 2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind(**nous**), so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- **Mark 12:30** (NASB)  
30) AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND(*dianoia*), AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'
- **2 Corinthians 10:5** (NASB)  
5) We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought(*noema*) captive to the obedience of Christ,
- **Philippians 4:8** (NASB)  
8) Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell(*logizomai*) on these things.

## II. The Role of Memory in Loving The Lord With ALL Our Minds

### A. The Brain

1. Receives information from the five senses (i.e. sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste).
2. This sensory information is the basis for what is stored in the memory.
3. Therefore, it is imperative that one monitors the activity of his life in this physical world experienced by way of the five senses in his effort to love the Lord with ALL his mind.

### B. The Mind (Immaterial)

1. Responsible for processing sensory information through **MEMORY** and subsequent action.
2. **Memory** (i.e. information storage and recall)
  - **Sensory Memory** - serves as a buffer for stimuli received. This information/stimuli received is transferred into "short-term" memory by way of "attention".
  - **Short-term Memory** - serves as a "scratch pad" for temporary recall of information.



- **Long-term Memory** - responsible for information storage over a long period of time.

### III. A Biblical Example of One Who Loves The Lord With ALL Their Mind (Psalm 1:1-3)

#### **Psalm 1:1-3 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

<sup>2</sup> **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

#### **John 14:23-24 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

<sup>24</sup> "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. Define Webster's definition of "*mind*" in this study.
2. What are the definitions of the other four (4) Greek words associated with the mind?
3. What are the four Scripture texts for each of the Greek words referenced in question #2?
4. How must one deal with his brain in his efforts of loving the Lord with ALL his mind?
5. What are the three (3) types of memory presented in this study?
6. What would you say is the reason for the spiritual success of the person referenced in Psalm 1:1-3?
7. According to our Lord's words in John 14:23, if anyone loves Him they will keep His\_\_\_\_\_.

## Living The Great Commandment

### “Love The Lord With All Your Strength” (Mark 12:30; Romans 12:1 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

In these times of economic hardship and the subsequent demands of this life, perhaps one of the greatest challenges for the Christian is placing the things of our God and His Kingdom as “Priority One” in our lives. In loving our Lord with our entire being, it is important we understand that it requires the totality of our physical lives in this world. In other words we are to love the Lord our God with all of our “strength” i.e. ability. Romans 12:1 states that we are to “present our bodies” sacrificially to the Lord, which is consistent with the definition of *agape* love. This love for our Heavenly Father must drive all of our aspirations and ambitions in this world regardless of its intimidations manifest in areas such as finances, health, violence, real estate, etc... Let us begin this study with a brief contextual analysis of Romans 12:1:

#### I. Romans 12:1: A Contextual Look

##### A. “Therefore”

1. In response to the Apostle Paul's words of praise and reflection regarding our God (Romans 11:32-36).
2. These words of praise in 11:32-36 are in view of the content of all the previous chapters of the book of Romans which addressed subjects such as:
  - Divine Love toward humanity (e.g. Romans 5:8)
  - Justification (e.g. Romans 5:9)
  - Grace (e.g. Romans 5:20-21)
  - Glorification (Romans 8:30)
  - Salvation (e.g. Romans 10:9)

##### B. “By the Mercies of God”

1. i.e. encouragement in view of His unmerited favor toward us.

**C. "Present Your Bodies"**

1. i.e. yield our entire being (i.e. "heart, soul, mind, and strength).

**D. "A Living Sacrifice"**

1. As opposed to a dead sacrifice as was the common practice as instructed in the Old Testament.
2. Implies service/ministry as well.

**E. "Holy"**

1. i.e. "set apart", particularly with regard to lifestyle.

**F. "Acceptable To God"**

1. i.e. pleasing to God and He only, as He alone is the "Righteous Judge" and sustainer of all things!

**G. "Spiritual ("Reasonable") Service of Worship**

1. Our "logical" response to His mercies.
2. "Spiritual" worship as opposed to the ceremonial worship of the Old Testament and pre-Resurrection periods.

**II. Loving The Lord With All Our Strength (Romans 12:1-21)**

**A. Requires Sacrifice (vs. 1)**

1. Sacrifice - the act of giving up, destroying, permitting injury to, or foregoing something valued for the sake of something having a more pressing claim. (Webster)
2. Examples of areas in/of our lives that may be impacted by such a sacrifice in view of our love for our Heavenly Father:
  - Relationships
  - Prestige
  - Wealth
  - Careers
  - Personal ambitions/ aspirations

**B. Requires Use Of Spiritual Gifts (vss. 4-8)**

1. Within the context of the Church/ "Body" (Cp. vss. 4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:20, 27).
2. Gifts **MUST** be exercised (vs. 6).

**C. Requires The Demonstration of Loving Others (vss. 9-21)**

1. Through devotion to others (vs. 10).
2. Through the giving of preference to others (vs. 10).
3. Through honoring others (vs. 10).

**Bible Study Guide/Questions**

1. What does the word "*strength*" mean in this study?
2. Give examples of some of the Christian foundational doctrines addressed in the book of Romans.
3. Define the word "*holy*" as used in Romans 12:1.
4. Define the word "*sacrifice*".
5. Give examples of areas of your life that may be impacted by your sacrificial love for our Heavenly Father.
6. What area(s) of your life poses a challenge in your desire to love our Lord sacrificially?
7. What if anything, challenges your desire to serve in ministry by way of your Spiritual gift(s); and how are you addressing those challenges?

## **Living The Great Commandment (Mark 12:28-30)**

### **“Six Important Truths Regarding The Great Commandment”**

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

*“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30 NASB)*

### **Six Important Truths Regarding The “Great Commandment”**

1. **Loving our Heavenly Father with all of our being is the 1<sup>st</sup> priority of our lives.** (Mark 12:30)

2. **We love Him by living according to the truths of His Scriptures.**

*“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3)*

*“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)*

*“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me ...” (John 14:21)*

*“... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word ...” (John 14:23)*

3. **We love Him by loving others**

*“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.”*

*(1 John 4:20-21)*

**4. If we don't love others, we CANNOT love Him**

*"... for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen..." (1 John 4:20)*

**5. His love for us is the standard by which we are to love others**

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)*

*"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:10-11)*

**6. Without love, all other Christian effort is useless**

*"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. 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. 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." (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)*

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Is Patient” (1 Corinthians 13:4; Romans 5:6-8 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### IV. Introduction

#### E. Word(s) Defined

1. **Patient** - to bear provocation, annoyance, misfortune, delay, hardship, pain, etc... with fortitude and calm and without complaint, anger, or the like.
2. NOTE: The verb form “patient” is used in 1 Cor. 13:4 as opposed to the noun “patience” indicating the active nature of this characteristic of love.

#### F. Scripture Context (1 Corinthians 13)

The book of 1 Corinthians is a letter written to the Church at Corinth by the Apostle Paul addressing very serious issues challenging the spiritual health and condition of their Church. For example:

1. Division within the Church (1:12-13)
2. Unaddressed sexual immorality (5:1-13)
3. Suing each other in the secular courts instead of settling differences among themselves (6:1-8)
4. Unholy behavior during the Lord's Supper (11:17-34)
5. Disorder and misunderstanding regarding Spiritual Gifts (14:1-40)
6. Erroneous doctrine regarding the resurrection (15:1-58)

Paul's emphatic and poignant answer to these ills was LOVE!

- The **Preeminence** of love (13:1-3)
- The **Perfection** of love (13:4-8)
- The **Permanence** of love (13:8-13)



**G. The Source and Ultimate Example: God the Father**

1. Love is from God the Father (1 John 4:7, 16)
2. He is our barometer for love (Cp. 1 John 4:9-11)

**V. "Love Is Patient" As Demonstrated By God The Father(Romans 5:6-8)**

The "patient" component of our Father's love for us was manifest in our Salvation as:

**A. Unconditional**

1. We were "helpless" i.e. powerless in terms of the condition of our lost souls. (vs. 6)
2. We were "ungodly" i.e. irreligious and impious (vs. 6)
3. We were "sinners" i.e. alienated from Him (vs. 8)

**B. Sacrificial**

1. Christ (the Son) died for us (vss. 6,8; Cp. John 3:16)

**C. Demonstrative**

1. As an example to be followed
2. "demonstrates" as opposed to "demonstrated" is indicative of His sustained patient love for and toward us!

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. The "Great Commandment" states that we are to love the Lord with all of our \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the definition of "patient"?
3. What is the significance of the verb form of "patient" rendered in 1 Corinthians 13:4 rather than the noun?
4. In view of the issues of the Corinthian Church, in what areas can you see the "patient" aspect of love applied?
5. Explain how the patience of the Father is applied to your life personally; i.e. how is His patient love unconditional, sacrificial, and demonstrative as it is directed toward you?
6. To whom should you make an effort to love more with patience?  
(e.g. spouse, children, fellow church members, other ethnic groups, etc...)
7. Give examples of how you can love others with a "patient" love that is unconditional, sacrificial, and demonstrative.

# LIVING THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

## “Love Is Kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4; Luke 10:30-37)

By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.

### I. Introduction

#### A. Word(s) Defined

1. **Kind** - Having, showing, or proceeding from benevolence. Indulgent, considerate, or helpful; humane.
2. **Benevolence** - Desire to do good to others; goodwill; charitableness.

#### B. Six Important Truths Regarding The “Great Commandment”

7. Loving our Heavenly Father with all of our being is the 1<sup>st</sup> priority of our lives. (Mark 12:28-30)
8. We love Him by living according to the truths of His Scriptures. (1 John 5:3)
9. We love Him by loving others. (1 John 4:20-21)
10. If we don't love others, we CANNOT love Him. (1 John 4:20)
11. His love for us is the standard by which we are to love others. (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10-11)
12. Without love, all other Christian effort is useless. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

#### C. Scripture Context (Luke 10:30-37)

1. This is the parable given by Jesus known as the “Good Samaritan”
2. This parable was Jesus' response to the question: “who is my neighbor” with respect to the Command to love our “neighbors”. (vs. 29)
3. The travel from Jerusalem to Jericho was frequent with Jews, as Temple activity was conducted in Jericho. It was a dangerous route that descended approximately 3,000 feet or so at a distance of 17 miles.
4. Priests were responsible for conducting the religious practices of the Temple. (Cp. Exodus 28:1-29:46; Leviticus 8:1-9:24)
5. Levites were to work as assistants to the priests. (Cp. Numbers 1:50)

## II. "Love Is Kind": A Biblical Example (Luke 10:30-37)

Note the following truths regarding the "kind" component of love as demonstrated by the Samaritan in this parable. "Kind" love is:

### A. Unconditional

1. Samaritans were despised by Jews (which was the implied race of the victim), and would generally be ignored and shunned by them. (Cp. John 4:9; 8:48)
2. The Samaritan's "kind" expression of love was not shaped by the behavior of those who passed by before him. (vss. 31-32)

### B. Sacrificial

1. May require an adjustment of personal plans and agendas.
  - He was "...on a journey..." (vs. 33)
2. May require the use of our resources.
  - Physical: e.g. automobiles, clothing, food, shelter, etc... (vs 34)
  - Monetary (vs. 35)
3. May require a substantial use of our time (vss. 34-35)
  - "... on the next day..." (vs. 35)

## III. The Challenge (vs. 37)

### A. "Go And Do Likewise"

1. "Kind" love must be demonstrated toward others.

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. Discuss the "Seven Important Truths" regarding the "Great Commandment"
2. Define the words "kind" and "benevolence".
3. What, in your opinion, is the significance of the Priest and the Levite's response to the person in need?
4. Explain the significance of the Samaritan's response.
5. In view of the meaning of "Kind" love, which response is more typical of you?
6. Discuss the unconditional aspect of "Kind" love.
7. Discuss the sacrificial aspect of "kind" love.

# **Living The Great Commandment**

## **“Love Is Not Jealous” (1 Corinthians 13:4; NASB)**

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Word (s) Defined**

1. **Jealous** - resentfully envious. (Webster)
2. **Envy** - a feeling of discontent and ill will because of another's advantages, possessions, etc.; resentful dislike of another who has something that one desires. (Webster)

#### **B. Six Important Truths Regarding The “Great Commandment”**

13. Loving our Heavenly Father with all of our being is the 1<sup>st</sup> priority of our lives. (Mark 12:28-30)
14. We love Him by living according to the truths of His Scriptures. (1 John 5:3)
15. We love Him by loving others. (1 John 4:20-21)
16. If we don't love others, we CANNOT love Him. (1 John 4:20)
17. His love for us is the standard by which we are to love others. (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10-11)
18. Without love, all other Christian effort is useless. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

#### **C. Biblical Examples of Jealousy**

1. Cain toward Abel (Genesis 4:4-8)
2. Rachel toward Leah (Genesis 30:1)
3. Joseph's brothers toward him (Genesis 37:11)
4. King Saul toward David (1 Samuel 18:8)
5. The elder brother toward the younger in parable (Luke 15:25-32)
6. Jews toward Christians (Acts 17:5-6)
7. Prevalent within the Corinthian church (Cp. 1 Corinthians 3:3)

**NOTE:** *It is within this context (i.e. the "local church") that we study this characteristic of love devoid of "jealousy".*

**D. Primary Implications of Jealousy**

1. Dissatisfaction with others due to their advantages and possessions.
2. Dissatisfaction with one's own advantages and possessions.
3. Dissatisfaction ultimately with God because of one's own advantages and possessions.

**II. "Love Is NOT Jealous" (1 Corinthians 3:3; James 3:14-16)**

Jealousy is manifested in various forms within the Church both locally and universally. Note the following regarding the presence of jealousy:

**A. The Source of Jealousy**

1. The "flesh" (1 Cor. 3:3; James 3:15)
2. Demonic influence (James 3:15)

**B. The Scope of Jealousy**

1. Produces strife; i.e. quarrels, factions, division (1 Cor. 3:3-4)
2. Disorder (James 3:16; Cp. 1 Cor. 14:33, 40)
3. "Every evil thing" (James 3:16)
  - "evil" in this verse literally means "worthless", which denotes the empty, useless, value of activity driven by jealousy and consequently the absence of love. (Cp. 1 Cor. 13:1-3)

**C. The Solution For Jealousy**

1. **"LOVE"!!!** (1 Cor. 13:4)
2. Examples of Church scenarios:
  - Denominational relations
  - Respect of the Spiritual Gifts among Christians
  - Supportive attitudes toward those in leadership roles
  - Appropriate attitude and mindset toward fellow church members' advantages and/or material possessions
  - Appropriate attitude toward other bodies of Christians regardless of race, membership size, worship style, resources, etc...

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. Discuss the "Seven Important Truths Regarding The Great Commandment"
2. Define the word "jealousy"
3. What are some primary implications for us from this meaning of jealousy?
4. What is the "source" of jealousy?
5. Give examples of how jealousy could harm your local church assembly
6. Give examples of how jealousy could harm the universal Church
7. What can/will you do to help rid your local church of the effects of jealousy?

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Does Not Brag” (1 Corinthians 1:30-31; 13:4; NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### I. Introduction

#### A. Word (s) Defined

1. **Brag** - to use boastful language.
2. **Boast** - to speak with exaggeration and excessive pride, especially about oneself. To be proud in the possession of.
3. **Exaggerate** - to magnify beyond the limits of truth; overstate; represent disproportionately.

#### B. Six Important Truths Regarding The “Great Commandment”

19. Loving our Heavenly Father with all of our being is the 1<sup>st</sup> priority of our lives. (Mark 12:28-30)
20. We love Him by living according to the truths of His Scriptures. (1 John 5:3)
21. We love Him by loving others. (1 John 4:20-21)
22. If we don't love others, we CANNOT love Him. (1 John 4:20)
23. His love for us is the standard by which we are to love others. (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10-11)
24. Without love, all other Christian effort is useless. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

#### C. Scripture Context

1. Letter from the Apostle Paul to “Christians” at Corinth. (1 Cor. 1:1-2)
2. This letter addressed division and conflict among them. (1 Cor. 1:10-11)
3. This letter addressed the “bragging” they did regarding the ministries they were associated with respectively. (1 Cor. 1:12-17)



## **II. Reasons For Bragging In The Lord Alone (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)**

There is absolutely no grounds for the Christian to brag about himself with regard to his spiritual status. Ultimately, such boasting competes with the glory that is to be received by our Lord who is the source of the following:

### **A. Our Position In Christ (vs. 30)**

- a. We were "placed" in His Body (Cp. 1 Cor. 12:12-13)
- b. As a result there is no condemnation for us (Romans 8:1)

### **B. Godly Wisdom (vs. 30)**

1. Through Christ
2. Superior to the world's "wisdom" (1 Cor. 1:22-25)

### **C. Righteousness (vs. 30)**

1. The state of being acceptable to God in every way.
2. This righteousness was "imputed" upon us (Cp. 2 Cor. 5:21)

### **D. Sanctification (vs. 30)**

1. To "sanctify" means to set aside or set apart.
2. Christians are "sanctified" by our Lord (Cp. 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

### **E. Redemption (vs. 30)**

1. To "redeem" means to "buy back".
2. "Redemption" unto salvation was/is through Jesus Christ by His blood.  
(Cp. Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14)

## **III. Love Does Not Brag (1 Corinthians 13:4)**

Bragging should be done in the Lord and He only (1 Cor. 1:31); NOT in oneself, especially at the expense of others' feelings regarding their short comings in this life both spiritually and secularly. (Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3-4)

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

- a. Discuss the "Seven Important Truths Regarding The Great Commandment.
- b. Define the words "brag" and "boast"
- c. What types of things were the Corinthian Christians bragging about?
- d. Discuss reasons why bragging by Christians is meaningless.
- e. Give examples of bragging items typical amongst today's Christians.
- f. In what way(s) if any, do you find yourself bragging.
- g. Give reasons why love and bragging CANNOT coexist.

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Is Not Arrogant” (1 Corinthians 13:4; Philippians 2:5-8 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### IV. Introduction

#### B. Word (s) Defined

- a. **Arrogant** - having or showing an exaggerated opinion of one's own importance, merit, ability, etc; conceited; overbearingly proud.
- b. **Exaggerate** - to magnify beyond the limits of truth; overstate; represent disproportionately.
- c. **Humble** - not proud or arrogant; modest.
- d. **Attitude** - mindset, feeling, position, etc, with regard to a person or thing.

**NOTE:** *“Arrogance is the attitude from which the act of 'bragging' is expressed.”*

#### C. The Holy Scriptures and “Humility”

- a. “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.” (Proverbs 16:18)
- b. “Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:4)
- c. “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11)
- d. “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think...” (Romans 12:3)
- e. “... God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)
- f. “Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” (James 4:10)
- g. “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.” (1 Peter 5:6)

#### **D. What Is Love?: (1 Corinthians 13:4)**

- a. Patient, kind, is not jealous, does not brag, **Is Not Arrogant** (i.e. Love is "Humble")

#### **V. Love Is Not Arrogant: A Divine Example (Philippians 2:5-8)**

The word "humbled" in verse 8 of this text is from the Greek word "tapeinoo" which means "to bring or make low". The idea is while arrogance is a "puffing up" or exaggerated opinion of oneself; humility is a lowering of one's importance, merit, abilities, etc... Our Lord has given us the perfect example of love that is not arrogant but humble. We see a lowering of His Divine **Position**, His Divine **Person**, and His Divine **Prerogative**.

##### **A. His Position (vs. 6)**

1. He, although being equal to God the Father within the Holy Trinity, "brought low" His Superior position as He executed His sacrificial expression of love toward humanity.

##### **B. His Person (vss. 6-7)**

1. He was the very "form" of God
2. He took on the "form" of a bond-servant
3. He took on the "likeness" of humanity
4. I.e. the Creator and Sustainer of all existence (Cp. Colossians 1:15-17) "brought low" His Divine nature to resemble the lowly as defined by man's standards; out of His non-arrogant love!

##### **C. His Prerogative (vs. 8)**

1. He "humbled" Himself by becoming obedient unto death on the cross.
2. The Roman crucifixion was reserved for the worst and lowly of criminals.
3. He "brought low" His prerogative to summon angels to deliver Him from His dreadful encounter with the cross. ( Matthew 26:52-54)

**VI. The Christian's Responsibility (Philippians 2:5)**

**A. "Like-mindedness"**

1. i.e. love is not arrogant; but love is humble.

**Bible Study Guide/Questions**

- a. Define the word "arrogant" .
- b. Define the word "humble".
- c. List at least three (3) Biblical scriptures addressing arrogance and humility.
- d. What is the *Greek* word and its meaning for the word "humbled" in Philippians 2:8?
- e. In what three (3) areas did Jesus humble Himself as described in Philippians 2:5-8?
- f. In what way(s) are you challenged in the area of humility?
- g. How can you apply Jesus' example of humility as displayed in Philippians 2:5-8, to your own life?

## Living The Great Commandment

### “Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly” (1 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Peter 1:14-16 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

#### VII. Introduction

##### E. Word (s) Defined

1. **Unbecoming** - Detracting from one's appearance, character, or reputation; unattractive or unseemly.
2. **Rude** - discourteous or impolite, especially in a deliberate way; rough in manners or behavior; unmannerly; uncouth.

##### F. Examples of “Unbecoming” Behavior Within The Corinthian Church

1. Violation of gender-related protocols and procedures customary to their local church assembly. (1 Corinthians 11:3-16)
2. Rude behavior during the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
3. Disorder within the collective worship gatherings.  
(1 Corinthians 14:26-33)

##### G. Some Scriptural Mandates Regarding Christian Behavior

1. Speech (Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8; 4:6)
2. Relationships
  - \*Husbands toward wives (Ephesians 5:25-31; 1 Peter 3:7)
  - \* Wives toward husbands (Ephesians 5:22-23,33; 1 Peter 3:1-6)
  - \* Children toward their parents (Proverbs 6:20; Ephesians 6:1-3)
  - \* Parents toward their children (Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:21)
  - \* Employees toward employers (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25)
  - \* Employers/managers, etc toward employees (Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1)
3. Christian behavior regarding secular government (Romans 13:1-7)
4. Sin in general (Cp. Romans 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:30-31; etc...)

##### H. What Is Love? (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)

1. Patient, kind, is not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, **Does Not Act Unbecomingly ...**

In view of the definition of the word "*unbecomingly*" in our scripture text, and the examples of some of the unacceptable behavior of the Corinthian church, we can conclude that acting "*unbecomingly*" in the context of love is behavior inconsistent with God's word that oftentimes manifests as rudeness. Remember, one way we love God is by living according to His word (John 14:15, 21, 23; 1 John 5:3). Love does not act unbecomingly as we Christians are uniquely related to God the Father as is described in 1 Peter 1:14-16. Consider the following:

**VIII. Christians Do Not Act Unbecomingly Because (1 Peter 1:14-16):**

**A. We Are The Divine Father's Children (vs. 14)**

1. "Children" greek "teknon" - i.e. one born
2. We are our Father's children through obedience.
3. Obedience through non-conformity to the influence of the flesh.

**B. Holiness Is Our Identity With The Father (vs. 15)**

1. "Holy" - separate; set apart.
2. Demonstrated through behavior that is "separate" from that of the world.

**C. The Father Commands It (vs. 16)**

1. Cp. also Leviticus 11:44

## **Bible Study Guide/Questions**

1. Define the word "unbecoming".
2. Discuss examples of the Corinthian Church's "unbecoming" behavior.
3. Give examples of what you define as rude behavior.
4. Review and discuss the "Scriptural Mandates Regarding Christian Behavior".
5. Review and discuss the reasons "Christians Do Not Act Unbecomingly" in view of 1 Peter 1:14-16.
6. In what area(s) of your life in terms of your behavior need improvement?
7. In view of the fact that "Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly", what can/will you do to make behavioral adjustments consistent with the Word of God?



# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Is Not Selfish” (1 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### IX. Introduction

#### I. Word (s) Defined

1. **Selfish** - too much concerned with one's own welfare or interests and having little or no concern for others; self-centered.

#### J. Selfish/Self-Centered “Origins”

Selfishness is always the precursor to sin. A self-centered mindset and motives in addition to disobedience, is the formula for sin. Consider the following instances that profoundly altered the universe and humanity as we know it:

1. Lucifer/Satan (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-19)  
“... *I will make myself like the Most High*” (Isaiah 14:14)
2. Eve (Genesis 3:1-6)  
“*When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took ... and ate ...*” (Genesis 3:6)

#### K. Examples Of Selfishness Within The Corinthian Church

Note the similarity between the Corinthian Church and today's Church with regard to selfishness manifested in the following areas:

1. Lawsuits against one another (1 Corinthians 6:1-8)
2. Sexual Immorality (1 Corinthians 6:13-20)
3. Marriage (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)
4. Serving in ministry with Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)
5. The corporate worship service (Cp. 1 Corinthians 14:26,33,40)

#### L. “What Is Love?” (1 Corinthian 13:4-5):

1. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, **Is Not Selfish** ...

## **II. Aspects Of Unselfish Love (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)**

A life of unselfish love is driven by the love demonstrated by Christ Himself. The Apostle Paul stated that the love of Christ in terms of humanity's salvation is what "controls" him (vs. 14) with regard to his insatiable passion for ministry and the kingdom of God. We too can be motivated by Christ's love for us when we consider the following aspects of His love: *sacrifice, substitution, surrender.*

### **A. Sacrifice (vs. 14)**

*"... one died for all ...*

1. Implies pain (Cp. Isaiah 53:5)
2. Implies inconvenience (Cp. Philippians 2:5-6)
3. Required of us for others (1 John 3:16)

### **B. Substitution (vs. 15)**

*" ... He died for all ... "*

1. "For" all implies His willful taking the place of us (i.e. the sinner) with full knowledge of the dreadful consequences (Cp. Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13)
2. Love that is not selfish may require one to voluntarily bear the burdens of others (Cp. Romans 15:1; 1 Corinthians 10:24)

### **C. Surrender (vs. 15)**

*" ... so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him ... "*

1. This aspect of Christ's love is the "clarion call" for us to surrender our life ambitions, aspirations, priorities, etc to the interests of our Lord and Savior, demonstrated through love in every area of our lives.
2. Ultimately, love that "is not selfish" is the love our Heavenly Father demonstrates toward us. (Cp. Romans 5:8)

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. Define the word "selfish" and discuss.
2. Who demonstrated the 1<sup>st</sup> Biblical account of selfishness in the universe? Discuss.
3. Who demonstrated the 1<sup>st</sup> Biblical account of selfishness toward God on earth? Discuss.
4. What is the "formula" for sin mentioned in this lesson?
5. Discuss the similarities between the Corinthian Church and the Church today with regard to selfishness.
6. What are three (3) aspects of Christ's love for us that should drive our love to be "unselfish"?
7. In what ways and in what areas of your life are you selfish? How will you address these areas in view of the scriptural truths from this study?

## Living The Great Commandment

“Love Is Not Provoked To Anger” (1 Corinthians 13:5; Matthew 26:36-56; NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### X. Introduction

#### M. Word (s) Defined

- a. **Provoke** - to excite to some action or feeling; to anger, irritate, or annoy. (Webster)
- b. **Anger** - a feeling of displeasure resulting from injury, mistreatment, opposition, etc., and usually showing itself in a desire to fight back at the supposed cause of this feeling. (Webster)
- c. *"Anger is aroused when we feel threatened, demeaned, or blocked in our progress toward some desired goal. Because we feel vulnerable, threatened, or inclined to be critical, we can misinterpret the actions of others and jump to angry, perhaps unjustified conclusions."*  
(Collins, Dr. Gary R., Ph.D.; Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide)

The meaning of love not being “provoked” can be understood in reference to all of the characteristics of love described in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. However, the implication contextually is that love is not provoked to “anger”, which can be the “doorway” to sin if not controlled. Anger in and of itself is not sin (Cp. Ephesians 4:26), however, it can produce fruit contrary to the true essence of love as we have studied. As St. Augustine once stated: *"Anger is a weed; hate is the tree"*.

The central point of this characteristic of love is ultimately one of “control”, and we may recall and revisit the previous study (i.e. *"Love Is Not Selfish"*) where the Apostle Paul claimed the **love of Christ** in view of humanity's salvation is what “controlled” he and his co-workers in ministry (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

#### N. “Anger” and the Scriptures”

- a. **Old Testament:** Job 5:2;19:29; Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 12:16;14:17,29; 15:1,18;16:32;19:11,19;22:24-25;25:28;29:8,22; Ecclesiastes 7:9
- b. **New Testament:** Matthew 5:22; Romans 12:19;James 1:19-20

### O. "What Is Love?" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)

- a. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, **Is Not Provoked To Anger...**

*"Anger is only one letter short of danger"*

### P. Dangers of Ungodly Anger

- a. Leads to sin (Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 14:17; 29:22; James 1:19-20)
- b. It is contagious (Proverbs 22:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:33)
- c. Hinders Godly wisdom (Proverbs 29:8)

As the Apostle Paul reflected on the exemplary love of Christ toward us with regard to His sacrificial work for humanity, we can also glean from the Scriptures Jesus' activity prior to that dreadful fate of the cross. If there were ever a case provoked anger could have been considered legitimate and justified, it would be the period of our Lord's arrest leading to His crucifixion. He was experiencing betrayal, denial, and hostility from His own "creation", yet was not provoked to anger. We see at least three (3) things present in the activity of our Lord's life prior to His arrest that will help us in this area: **Prayer, Patience, and Purpose.**

## XI. Biblical Keys To Anger Management (Matthew 26:36-56)

### A. Prayer (vss. 36-44)

- 1. i.e. communication with the Father (Cp. vss. 39, 42)
- 2. in the midst of the most emotionally challenged times (Cp. vs. 38)
- 3. if Jesus utilized prayer, why not us? (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

### B. Patience (vss. 40-50)

- 1. Love is "Patient" i.e. bearing provocation, annoyance, pain, etc. with fortitude and calm.
- 2. displayed toward the "sleepy" disciples (vss. 40-46)
- 3. displayed toward Judas who betrayed Him (vss. 48-50)
- 4. displayed toward the one who attempted to defend Him with violence (vs. 51-53)

### **C. Purpose (vss. 54-56)**

1. His purpose was found in the "Scriptures" (e.g. Isaiah 9:6; 53:1-12)
2. Our purpose and its costs is also found in the Scriptures
  - \* Conformity into the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-29)
  - \* Disciples (i.e. followers) of Christ (Cp. Matthew 16:24)
  - \* The costs of Discipleship (Cp. Luke 14:25-27)
  - \* Execution of the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20)
  - \* Last but not least; the keeping of the "Great Commandment" (Mark 12:30)

Understanding our "Purpose" in this life, alters our perspective in view of the life to come!

### **Bible Study Guide/Questions**

- a. Define the words "provoke" and "anger"
- b. What are some things that may provoke or cause anger?
- c. With regard to the control of our emotions, behavior, tempers, etc, what did the Apostle Paul state "controlled" them and in what scripture passage is that statement located?
- d. Is anger in and of itself sin? Explain.
- e. What are some dangers of ungodly anger?
- f. What are three (3) keys to anger management we see used by Jesus in the Scriptures during the events leading to His crucifixion?
- g. Love is not provoked to anger. Are you easily angered? If so, what have you gained from this study to help you in this area?

**Living The Great Commandment**  
**“Love Keeps No Record Of Being Wronged”**  
**(1 Corinthians 13:5; Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35 NASB)**  
(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

**XII. Introduction**

**Q. Word (s) Defined**

- a. **Record** - something kept mentally or written as to serve as evidence.
- b. **Forgive** - to give up resentment against or the desire to punish; stop being angry with; pardon. (Webster)

Love “keeps no record of being wronged” as the New Living Translation renders 1 Corinthians 13:5, is another way of saying “love forgives”. It is this characteristic of love that so intimately associates us with our Heavenly Father as is described in Matthew 6:14-15. Forgiveness ultimately requires us to relinquish the consequences and punishment due those who have wronged us, as our Heavenly Father has and continues to demonstrate toward us. Consider the following parable from Jesus:

**R. A “Forgiveness” Parable (Matthew 18:21-35)**

- Initiated by Peter's question as to how often one should forgive. (vs. 21)
- Jesus' response implied one should forgive an unlimited amount of times. (vs. 22)
- A king was settling “accounts” with his slaves. (vs. 23)
- One slave who owed the king ten thousand talents (one talent was more than 15 years of a laborer's wages) was unable to pay. (vss. 24-25)
- The king ordered this slave, his family, and all his possessions to be sold along with any future income, that his debt may be paid. (vs. 25)
- The slave begged the king's forgiveness. (vs. 26)
- The king had compassion upon him and forgave him the debt. (vs. 27)

- The same slave found a fellow slave who owed him one hundred denarii (a denarius was one day's wages for a laborer), and harshly demanded the debt. (vss. 28)
- That slave pleaded with him for mercy with regard to his debt. (vs. 29)
- The "forgiven" slave was himself unwilling to forgive. (vs. 30)
- The king was made aware of the incident and sentenced the unforgiving slave to punishment. (vss. 31-34)

**S. "What Is Love?" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)**

- a. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, is not provoked to anger, **Keeps No Record of Being Wronged ...**

Since love does not keep an accounting of being wronged, or in other words "forgives"; it is necessary for us to consider the following statements regarding forgiveness:

**XIII. Truths Regarding Biblical Forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15)**

**A. Forgiveness Is An Exercise Of The Will (vs. 14)**

*"You must choose to forgive whoever has wronged you. Forgiveness is not an emotion, it is a decision of the will."* (Dr. Erwin Lutzer)

1. The word "if" in verse 14 implies choice.
2. Regardless of the person(s) or the offense.(Cp. Matthew 18:22,27)  
*"We all agree that forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it."* (C.S. Lewis)

**B. If We Forgive Others We Are Forgiven By The Father (vs. 14)**

1. Loving others through forgiveness initiates the forgiveness we need and desire from the Father.
2. In other words, if we keep no record of others' wrongs toward us, God will "keep no record" of our wrongs toward Him.

**C. If We Do Not Forgive Others We Will Not Be Forgiven**

1. Not loving others through forgiveness ultimately leads to unconfessed sin in that our Father will refuse to forgive us.
2. Sin that is not confessed restricts Divine blessings.  
(Cp. Psalm 32:1-5; Proverbs 28:13)



## Bible Study Guide/Questions

*"The voice of sin is loud, but the voice of forgiveness is louder"* (D.L. Moody)

- a. Define the words "forgive" and "record".
- b. Discuss/Explain the "Forgiveness" parable found in Matthew 18.
- c. Give examples as to how loving others through forgiveness is relevant (E.G. family, marriage, church, etc...).
- d. List the three truths/ statements in this study regarding Biblical forgiveness.
- e. What is the danger of the Heavenly Father refusing to forgive us our sins?
- f. Is there anyone in your life past or present you have not forgiven?
- g. In view of the Scriptural truths presented in this study, how do you plan to address the matter of those you have not forgiven?

*"Life lived without forgiveness becomes a prison."* (William Arthur Ward)

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Does Not Rejoice In Sin” (1 Corinthians 13:6; NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### XIV. Introduction

#### T. Word (s) Defined

- a. **Sin** - i.e. unrighteousness; iniquity; wrongdoing.
- b. **Rejoice** - To be glad; joy.
- c. **Condone** - permit; allow; overlook.
- d. **Consent** - to approve of.

The fact that “love does not rejoice in unrighteousness” (i.e. “sin”) implies at least three things: it does not **commit**, **condone**, or **consent** to, sin or more specifically wrongful acts and behavior. Love takes no pleasure in hearing of or repeating sin. In this study we will explore the underlying meaning of this characteristic of love and its practical relevance in our effort to “Live The Great Commandment”.

#### U. “What Is Love?” (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)

- a. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, is not provoked to anger, keeps no record of being wronged, **Does Not Rejoice In Sin** ...

### XV. Love Does Not Rejoice In Sin (1 Corinthians 13:6)

#### A. Does Not Commit Sin (1 John 5:3)

- a. In view of the centrality of keeping the Word of God with regard to loving Him.
- b. We cannot “rejoice” in living in sin through the disobedience of God's Word, and still satisfy the Commandment to love Him.  
(Cp. John 14:15, 21, 23)

**B. Does Not Condone Sin (1 Corinthians 5:9-13)**

1. I.e. love does not simply "overlook" blatant unrepentant sin.
2. As expressed by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian Church:
  - \* There should be no association with immoral unrepentant professed Christians. (vss. 9 - 12)
  - \* Such persons should be removed from the midst of the Fellowship because of the potential harm to the entire Body. (vss. 6 - 7, 13)

**C. Does Not Consent To Sin (Romans 1:28-32)**

1. The Greek word (syneudokeo) used here in Romans 1:32, means not only "consent" or "approval" in the sense of passive assent, but rather implies a pleasurable and emphatic support of such sin.
2. This passage in the first chapter of the book of Romans warns us of such association.

**Bible Study Guide/Questions**

1. Define the words: *Rejoice*, *condone*, and *consent*.
2. Discuss the association with these words and sin.
3. What is the significance of love as it relates to obeying the word of God?
4. What three (3) things are implied in the statement: "love does not rejoice in sin"?
5. What was the sin the Apostle Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians chapter 5?
6. Are you guilty of "rejoicing in sin" as presented in this study? If so, in what way(s)?
7. How do you plan to address this problem as you understand its challenge to your efforts to love as our Lord commands us?

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Rejoices With The Truth”

(1 Corinthians 13:6; John 17:17; 1 Timothy 3:15)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### XVI. Introduction

#### V. Word (s) Defined

- a. **Truth** - the quality of being in accordance with experience, facts, or reality; conformity with fact. Agreement with a standard, rule, etc...
- b. **Rejoice** - To be glad; joy.
- c. **Sanctify** - to separate or set apart; it denotes separation to God and the accompanying lifestyle of those separated.
- d. **Church** - (Greek) **Ekklesia** - i.e. “called out” with reference to the Body (and “Assembly”) of Christ.

“Love rejoices with the truth” as opposed to our previous lesson, “rejoices in sin”. As we have already established from the Scriptures, “God is Love” (1 John 4:16). Additionally, God and His Word is Truth (Cp. John 14:6; 17:17) and in terms of “truth” He is “Light” (i.e. “truth”; enlightenment, etc...) and there is “no darkness at all” in Him! (1 John 1:5). On the other hand, Satan is the “father of lies” (John 8:44) and the force behind the “darkness” of this world (Cp. Ephesians 6:12). God’s very essence is love, and anything related to who He is as conveyed to mankind is truth. However, anything that is not truth is a lie, and consequently aligns one with the agenda and motives of Satan (Cp. John 8:44; 1 John 3:8). Therefore, love “rejoices” with truth, as it is an attribute of our Father.

#### W. Some Foundational “Truths” Of The Christian Faith

- a. God is Creator and Sustainer of all existence (Genesis 1:1)
- b. Man was created perfect but fell as a result of his choice to sin against God (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:6).
- c. Jesus Christ is the Savior and Messiah provided by God as a remedy for man’s sin (John 3:16; Acts 2:36).
- d. Jesus Christ was crucified, died, buried, and rose from the grave the “third day” for the sins of humanity (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

- e. Jesus the Christ will return for His Church and reign eternally as King (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

**X. "What Is Love?" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)**

- a. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, is not provoked to anger, keeps no record of being wronged, does not rejoice in sin, **Rejoices With Truth...**

**XVII. Love Rejoices In Truth (John 17:17; 1 Timothy 3:15)**

**A. We Are Sanctified In Truth (John 17:17)**

- 1. implies separation from the world.
- 2. implies agitation

\* Consider Stephen and the cause of his death (Acts 7:51-60)

**B. God's Word Is Truth (John 17:17)**

- 1. implies truth is "absolute" as opposed to relative.

\* primarily because God/Jesus does not change  
(Cp. Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17)

- 2. Jesus is the Eternal "Word" (John 1:1,14) and "Truth" (John 14:6).

**C. The Church Is The Paradigm Of Truth (1 Timothy 3:15)**

- 1. i.e. the "pillar and support ("ground")" of the truth.
- 2. In contrast to the secular world and its views.

\* **Postmodernism** - suggests that if objective truth exists, it cannot be known objectively or with any degree of certainty.

\* **Pluralism** - the existence and acceptance of multiple distinct religious and philosophical belief systems; and while radically different, regarded as equally true.

**NOTE :** *These are examples of the secular views of society that run counter to the absolute TRUTHS of God's Word. Nevertheless, love rejoices in truth!*

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

- a. Define the word "truth".
- b. Discuss the relationship of "love" and "truth" to God.
- c. Discuss Satan's relationship to truth, and the danger of one's association with him in this area.
- d. Discuss the foundational truths of the Christian faith that were presented in this study and their reference scriptures.
- e. Discuss/explain how you are "sanctified" by truth.
- f. Reflect on areas of your life where truth is not prevalent.
- g. In what ways can you increase your time in *God's Word* (i.e. the Bible) as it is the "Truth" by which you are to live?

# Living The Great Commandment

**“Love Bears All Things”(1 Corinthians 13:7; 1 Peter 4:8; NASB)**

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

*“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions”* (Proverbs 10:22)

## XVIII. Introduction

### Y. Word (s) Defined

- a. **Bear(s)** *Greek* - **stego** - to cover (i.e. with silence).
- b. **Fervent** - intent; earnest; without ceasing.

### Z. “What Is Love?” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- a. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, is not provoked to anger, keeps no record of being wronged, does not rejoice in sin, rejoices with truth, **Bears All Things** ...

This characteristic of love “bearing” all things actually should be understood as “covers” all things. It is 1 Peter 4:8 where we see this idea expressed to the Christians under Roman rule. Essentially, this characteristic of love does not encourage, support, or condone sin; however it does overlook and “covers” silently the faults and imperfections of others. Although as addressed in previous lessons regarding love’s usage particularly in the Church for the sake of collective purity, it sincerely seeks to protect the wellbeing and dignity of its object by attempting to “cover” shortcomings until a more opportune occasion.

This passage in 1 Peter 4:8 was written directly to Christians experiencing tremendous persecution. Therefore, we will approach this passage and teaching from a Christian to Christian perspective. Note the historical context of 1 Peter in view of the instruction to “... *above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins*”.

## **AA. Historical Context of 1 Peter 4**

- a. Rome was devastated by a fire in A.D. 64.
- b. The Roman Emperor Nero was suspected to have been responsible.
- c. Nero used Christians as his "scapegoat" and blamed them for the fire.
- d. Christians were considered a fanatical cult of Judaism, which made them the "perfect" scapegoat.
- e. Christians were severely persecuted as a result of Nero's deceptive and false claims against them.
- f. This false claim resulted in a Christian Diaspora (Cp. 1 Peter 1:1).

In the midst of this horrible and perplexing situational back drop, the Apostle Peter was encouraging the Believers in the Book of 1 Peter (among other things) to:

- Be reminded of the significance of their relationship with Christ through Salvation (1:3-12).
- Continue submitting to governing authorities (2:11-17).
- Continue to exercise godliness in the home (3:1-7).
- Practice submission to each other in the Church (3:8-12).
- Be zealous in the Lordship of Christ (3:13-22).
- Suffer with Christ (4:1-2).
- Carry out godly leadership within the Church (5:1-5).

However, it was "above all" that fervent love which "covers" the imperfections and flaws of others was encouraged. We must take away from this lesson the significance of loving our Brothers and Sisters with a love that "bears" ("covers") all things even in hard times which generally makes it very difficult to focus on the wellbeing of others. Consider the following:

## **XIX. Some Important Reasons For The Practice of "Bearing" Love**

### **A. Encouragement**

1. In the midst of hardship, one does not need critical and scathing attacks from fellow Believers regarding their faults, but rather encouragement that they may find strength to endure and thus overcome those faults/sins.
2. Cp. Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25



## **B. Hypocrisy**

1. "Bearing" love guards against the possibility of hypocrisy, in that it causes one to consider his own sins and imperfections instead of exploiting, and "rejoicing" in, the sins of others.
2. Cp. Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 12:3, 9

## **C. Gossip**

1. i.e. the empty yet destructive usage of words that propagate rumors and/or untruths that are generally damaging to the character of another or others.
2. "Bearing" love seeks to conceal the sins and imperfections of others to prevent them from becoming victims of gossip.
3. Cp. Ephesians 4:29. Also, Proverbs 20:19; Romans 1:29; 1 Timothy 3:11; 5:13; Titus 2:3

## **Bible Study Guide/Questions**

- a. Define the "greek" word for "bear" and discuss.
- b. Define the word "fervent".
- c. Discuss the historical context of the book of 1 Peter and its relevance to Christians today.
- d. How is "bearing" love relevant to encouragement?
- e. How is "bearing" love relevant to hypocrisy?
- f. How is "bearing" love relevant to gossip?
- g. Is this characteristic of love a challenge for you? If yes, how so? How do you intend to address this challenge?

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Believes All Things” (1 Corinthians 13:7; Romans 5:6-8 NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

*“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (Psalm 103:10)*

### VI. Introduction

#### H. Word(s) Defined

1. **Believe** - to have trust or confidence (in) as being true, real, good, etc. (Webster)

This “believes all things” characteristic of love is not at all suggesting that we be credulous, because we are encouraged to be wise in this world (Cp. Matthew 10:16). However, love that “believes all things” is a love that does not regard a person with suspicion, but rather trusts that the person and his/her motives are good, genuine, and sincere. “Believing” love enables “Patient” and “Forgiving” love, in that its objective and tendency is to see and seek the good in others regardless of their faults. Such a virtue makes it easier to be patient with others, and perhaps more willing to forgive others also. Consider the following hypothetical scenarios where “believing” love should be demonstrated:

#### I. “Believing” Love Scenarios

1. A parent trusting a child that was disobedient, but since apologized and sought forgiveness.
2. Regarding a boss or co-worker’s character and motives as good, even though hearing the contrary stated by others.
3. Trusting a spouse who has committed infidelity, but has repented and sought forgiveness.
4. A parent “believing” in a child’s aspiration to pursue a collegiate education and subsequent profession although they’ve had a challenged academic history.
5. A Pastor’s disregard of one’s immoral past in consideration for service in a particular ministry.
6. A local Church’s acceptance of an ex-convict who has repented and served his/her debt to society, regardless of the crime.

7. Considering the underlying cause or reason of one's sharp and offensive speech, instead of drawing more negative conclusions.

#### **J. "What Is Love?" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**

1. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, is not provoked to anger, keeps no record of being wronged, does not rejoice in sin, rejoices with truth, bears all things, **Believes All Things** ...

As with all of the characteristics of love, "believing" love is demonstrated profoundly by our Heavenly Father with regard to our salvation. It is necessary for us to revisit Romans 5:6-8, where we find very relevant truths regarding "believing" love that will help us apply it in our lives. His sacrificial and unconditional love was and is bestowed upon us regardless of our faults.

#### **VII. "Believing" Love Divinely Demonstrated (Romans 5:6-8)**

##### **A. Regardless of Our Helplessness (vs. 6)**

1. i.e. "powerless"
2. We were not able to save ourselves (Cp. John 6:44).
3. "Believing" love extended regardless of the frailty of humanity. (Cp. Psalm 103:14).

##### **B. Regardless of Our Ungodliness (vs. 6)**

1. i.e. our irreligious and impious nature and behavior.
2. Due to His "Believing" love, he still invested in us through the distribution of Spiritual Gifts (Cp. 1 Corinthians 12:1-31).

##### **C. Regardless of Our Sin (vs. 8)**

1. i.e. our positional alienation from Him in view of His Holiness (Cp. Ephesians 2:1-9).
2. His "believing" love does not allow Him to hold our sins against us (Cp. Psalm 103:10).

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

1. Define the word "believe".
2. What is the meaning of "Love Believes All Things" .
3. There are at least two (2) other love characteristics "believing" love is closely related to. What are they? Discuss how they are related.
4. Give and discuss examples of scenarios that may require "believing" love.
5. With regard to our salvation, based on Romans 5:6-8 what three areas did God disregard as He bestowed His "believing" love upon us?
6. Discuss the association of Spiritual Gifts and God's "believing" love toward us.
7. Discuss how we can demonstrate "believing" love toward others, as our Heavenly Father has toward us.

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Hopes All Things” (1 Corinthians 13:7; NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### I. Introduction

#### A. Word(s) Defined

1. **Hope** - a feeling that what is wanted is likely to happen; desire accompanied by expectation. (Webster)
2. **Expect(ancy)** - to look for as likely to occur or appear.
3. **Optimism** - the tendency to make the most hopeful or cheerful view of matters or to expect the best outcome.

#### B. “What Is Love?” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

1. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, is not provoked to anger, keeps no record of being wronged, does not rejoice in sin, rejoices with truth, bears all things, believes all things, **Hopes All Things...**

The depravity of humanity manifested in immorality, disrespect, sexual promiscuity, irreverence, insubordination, etc; creates an atmosphere that makes it difficult to have hope in this world. The average rationally thinking person desires to exist in a world of peace, prosperity, good health, safety, and the like. This study addresses the “**Hopes All Things**” characteristic of love, which regardless of the “anti-hope” climate of this world desires goodwill and good fortune for others. Note the grammatical usage of the word “hope” in our scripture text; the verb form (i.e. “hopes”) is used indicating the need for effort in applying a “hope all things” love in this seemingly hopeless world.

Love that “hopes all things” is therefore intentional and requires unyielding action to the end that those on the receiving end of this love may experience hope to the glory of our Heavenly Father! Consider the following acronym for “**HOPES**”:

## **II. Love H.O.P.E.S All Things (1 Corinthians 13:7)**

### **A. Happiness**

1. Love desires happiness (i.e. pleasure, contentment, joy, etc...) for others.

\* For friend (Cp. 3 John 1-2)

\* For Foe (Cp. Luke 6:28; Romans 12:14)

### **B. Optimism**

1. Love desires the best outcome for others regardless of the seemingly hopeless circumstances.

### **C. Persistence**

1. Love that hopes the best for others is constant and consistent even in the presence of opposition.

### **D. Expectancy**

1. Love not only desires good for others, but expects it to happen.

### **E. Salvation**

1. Love that "hopes all things" desires salvation for all. This is consistent with the Father's desire for all. (Cp. 2 Peter 3:9; 1Timothy 2:4)

2. Love also desires "Christ-likeness" for all as is the Father's purpose and desire for His children. (Cp. Romans 8:28-29)

## **Bible Study Guide/Questions**

1. What is meant by love "Hopes All Things"?

**Define and give examples of the following with regard to "hoping" love:**

2. Happiness

3. Optimism

4. Persistence

5. Expectancy

6. Salvation

7. Are you challenged in this area of love for others? If so, what adjustments can and will you make?

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Endures All Things” (1 Corinthians 13:7; NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### I. Introduction

#### A. Word(s) Defined

a. **Endure** - Greek (**hypomeno**) To remain under. i.e. withstand; stand firm.

#### B. “What Is Love?” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

a. Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, is not provoked to anger, keeps no record of being wronged, does not rejoice in sin, rejoices with truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **Endures All Things...**

It is fitting that this “Endures All Things” characteristic of love is placed at the close of the list here in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. The word rendered “endure” in this passage is translated from the Greek word “hypomeno” which is a compound word consisting of the Greek words *hupo* (under; beneath) and *meno* (to stay or remain); hence to endure means to stand and remain firm under pressure. In the context of this passage and our “Great Commandment” theme, we can conclude that it is a reference to persevering through the challenge to love according to the aforementioned characteristics of love in 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

In our own strength, we may all agree that love as defined and described throughout our study, is a daunting task! However, it is by the power of our God through the Person of the Holy Spirit (Cp. Galatians 5:22-23) that we must seek to endure as our love is challenged daily by a world that is hostile toward the things of God. We must withstand the opposition against our efforts to love. Consider just four of the characteristics of love we’ve studied previously in view of “Enduring” love:



## **II. Love Endures All Things (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**

### **A. Love Is Patient (vs. 4)**

1. **Patience** - to bear provocation, annoyance, misfortune, delay, hardship, pain, etc... with fortitude and calm and without complaint, anger, or the like.
2. Enduring love withstands the temptation to cease practicing patient love regardless of the opposition.

### **B. Love Is Kind (vs. 4)**

1. **Kind** - Having, showing, or proceeding from benevolence. Indulgent, considerate, or helpful; humane.
2. Enduring love withstands the temptation to cease expressions of kind love regardless of the opposition.

### **C. Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly (vs. 5)**

1. **Unbecoming** - behavior inconsistent with God's word that oftentimes manifests as rudeness.
2. Enduring love withstands the temptation to cease from expressing love through Godly behavior regardless of the opposition.

### **D. Love Keeps No Record Of Being Wronged (vs. 5)**

1. i.e. "Forgives" which ultimately requires us to relinquish the consequences and punishment due those who have wronged us.
2. Enduring love withstands the temptation to cease from expressing love through forgiveness regardless of the opposition.

## **III. The Father's Example Of Enduring Love (Romans 5:6-8)**

### **A. Unconditional (vs. 6)**

### **B. Sacrificial (vs. 8)**

*"He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities" (Psalm 103:10)*

## Bible Study Guide/Questions

- a. Define the word endure.
- b. Explain the meaning of the Greek word translated "endure".
- c. Explain/ discuss the significance of the place of "Enduring Love" on the list of the love characteristics.

Explain the relationship of "enduring" love to the following characteristics of love:

- d. Patient
- e. Kind
- f. Forgiving
- g. What characteristic(s) of love do you struggle with and need the presence of "enduring" love to help you persevere through the struggle?

# Living The Great Commandment

## “Love Never Fails” (1 Corinthians 13:8-13; NASB)

(By Pastor Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

### IV. Introduction

#### C. Word(s) Defined

- a. **Fail** - To be lacking or insufficient; fall short. To lose power or strength; weaken. To stop operating or working. (Webster)
- b. **Never** - Not ever; at no time. Not at all; by no chance; in no case; under no conditions. (Webster)

As we come to the close of our study of 1 Corinthians chapter 13 under the theme: “Living the Great Commandment”, it is necessary to review the sequence of this study as Divinely given by our Lord.

#### D. Review

- a. The “**Great Commandment**” is for the Believer to love the Lord with his entire being; i.e. “heart, soul, mind, and strength”. (Mark 12:28-30)
- b. We love Him by:
  - Living according to the truths of His Scriptures (1 John 5:3)
  - Loving others (1 John 4:20-21)
- c. What is love? (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
  - Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, is not selfish, is not provoked to anger, keeps no record of being wronged, does not rejoice in sin, rejoices with truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

It is truly encouraging to know that love never “fails”. The word “fail” used here in 1 Corinthians 13:8 is from the Greek word “*pipto*”, which means to fall or to fall down. In the context of our theme, it means the **Preeminence**, **Perfection**, and **Permanence** of love will be sustained. It in essence will “not ever; at no time; not at all; by no chance; in no case; under no conditions”, “fail”!

**V. Love Will Never Fail In Its:**

**A. Preeminence (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13)**

1. Above Christian/ Spiritual virtues
  - \* sacrificial living (vs. 3)
  - \* Faith and Hope (vss. 2, 13)
2. Above Spiritual Gifts
  - \* E.g. gifts of tongues, knowledge, prophecy, faith (vss. 1, 8-10)

**B. Perfection (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**

1. i.e its virtues and characteristics will always be effective when allowed to manifest in the life of the Christian.

**C. Permanence (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)**

1. Love will outlast Spiritual Gifts as they are relevant to the Church on earth in this world.(Cp.vss. 8-9; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:11-12)
2. Love will outlast "Faith" and "Hope" (vs. 13) when we are in that coming "perfect" (vs. 10) environment where these two precious virtues will have achieved their objective! (Cp. Revelation Chps. 21-22)
3. We will reside in the perfect love of our Heavenly Father eternally!!!

## **Bible Study Guide/Questions**

1. What is the "Great Commandment"?

**We love the Lord by doing what two (2) things?**

2.

3.

4. Define the word "fail", and explain its relevance to love.

5. Explain why love will outlast the Spiritual Gifts.

6. Explain why love is superior to Faith and Hope.

7. How has this study of 1 Corinthians chapter 13 benefitted you in terms of your walk with Christ?