



CAPITOL
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FOCUSED ON THE WORD

The Preeminence of Love



Without *love* as the center of your faith, your trajectory in office will be less than it could be otherwise. If you want to be influential, your spouse, family members, and colleagues must know in their heart of hearts that, first and foremost, you are a *loving* person. Paul states in the opening portions of 1 Corinthians 13, without *love I am nothing*. What then are the defining aspects of *love* that we need to be continually working on and growing in? This study will take a close look at this element to consider.

Read on, beloved.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

White House Cabinet and Governors: Wednesdays 8am (EST), light breakfast served
Senate Members: Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served
House Members: Thursdays 8am, Natural Resources, Longworth 1334, hot breakfast served

- WHITE HOUSE CABINET
AMBASSADORS
AND GOVERNORS
- Alex Acosta DC
 - Mike Braun IN
 - Phil Bryant MS
 - Dr. Ben Carson DC
 - Mike Dunleavy AK
 - Greg Gianforte MT
 - Mark Gordon WY
 - Pete Hegseth DC
 - Mike Huckabee DC
 - Sarah Huckabee Sanders AR
 - Mike Keboe MO
 - David Perdue DC
 - Sonny Perdue GA
 - Rick Perry TX
 - Jim Pillen NE
 - Tate Reeves MS
 - Kim Reynolds IA
 - Brooke Rollins DC
 - Kevin Stitt OK
 - Scott Turner DC
 - Russell Vought DC
 - Scott Walker WI
 - Glenn Youngkin VA

- SENATORS
- John Thune
 - Senate Majority Leader
 - Marsha Blackburn TN
 - Katie Britt AL
 - Ted Budd NC
 - Bill Cassidy LA
 - Kevin Cramer ND
 - Steven Daines MT
 - Joni Ernst IA
 - William Hagerty TN
 - Cindy Hyde-Smith MS
 - James Lankford OK
 - Markwayne Mullin OK
 - Mike Rounds SD
 - Tim Scott SC

- REPRESENTATIVES
- Mike Johnson
 - Speaker of the House
 - Mark Alford MO
 - Robert Aderholt AL
 - Rick Allen GA
 - Brian Babin TX
 - Don Bacon NE
 - Nick Begich AK
 - Michael Bost IL
 - Josh Brecheen OK
 - Tim Burchett TN
 - John Carter TX
 - Juan Ciscomani AZ
 - Rick Crawford AR
 - Jake Ellzey TX
 - Ron Estes KS
 - Glenn Grothman WI
 - Pat Harrigan NC
 - Kevin Hern OK
 - Richard Hudson NC
 - Bill Huizenga MI
 - Dusty Johnson SD
 - Jim Jordan OH
 - Doug LaMalfa CA
 - Nathaniel Moran TX
 - Gary Palmer AL
 - August Pfluger TX
 - David Rouzer NC
 - John Rutherford FL
 - Marlin Stutzman IN
 - Glenn Thompson PA
 - Tim Walberg MI
 - Randy Weber TX
 - Daniel Webster FL
 - Bruce Westerman AR
 - Roger Williams TX
 - Rob Wittman VA
 - Steve Womack AR
 - Rudy Yakym IN

The views expressed in each Bible Study are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study sponsor.



PUBLIC SERVANT
ENDORSEMENT

Mike Rounds

U.S. Senator
South Dakota



“Republicans and Democrats alike come together [in our CapMin Bible study] to learn and grow in our faith. This once-a-week opportunity provides an atmosphere of trust and learning. This is a time to examine our spiritual needs, study the Bible, and reflect on the graces received from our Lord and Savior.”

I. INTRODUCTION

Contextually, chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians is sandwiched between two chapters of instruction by Paul to the Church at Corinth whose members, in their carnality, emphasized the practice of certain spiritual gifts above the practice of Christian *love*. Paul instructs them that *love* is preeminent. Again, charity, or *love* is what ties people together.

Of special note are the *love*-defining verbs from verses 4–7 that follow under the second outline point: “The Elements of *Love*.” All 15 are in the present continuous tense “denoting actions and attitudes which have become habitual, ingrained gradually by constant repetition.”¹ Born from this, and worthy of saying again,

These defining characteristics of love are worthy of constant review and practice, especially with our spouses, family members, office staff, and professional colleagues; after all, love is what ties us together and sustains our relationships.

Given that repetition is the key to learning and ingraining, this study

bears review often. Akin to skills needed for driving a car, these specific, measurable aspects of *love* should become habitual responses in our lives—even though they are more difficult and take much longer to cultivate than the rote habits of driving a car.

Before examining the fundamental aspects germane to objectifying *love*, Paul first emphasizes—and appropriately so—the superiority of *love*. So let’s look at that first.

II. THE ESSENTIALITY OF LOVE (1 CORINTHIANS 13:1–3)

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.

In these three opening verses, Paul makes three stark comparisons in order to underscore the incomparability of *love*. These introductory remarks exclaim the dominance of *love* as a virtue over all other character traits. It is important, motivational, and insightful to note that the three respective comparisons are related to qualities necessary from a human perspective for you to succeed in the capital community! You must exhibit speaking skills (13:1), leadership



(13:2) and self-sacrifice (13:3). As critical as those are,

Love—from God’s perspective—is of greater importance!

As interesting a comparison as this is, let’s elaborate on each. The first comparison in verse 1 is to a person’s oratory abilities.

A. LOVE OVER ORATION
(1 CORINTHIANS 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.

Your *love* for others is more important than your speaking abilities. The metaphor of *becoming a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal* relates to empty philosophizing. Someone who knows and exclaims all the right answers but has no *love* is akin to the Church of Ephesus as described in Revelation 2:1–7. That church had all the right doctrine but had lost their *love* for God.

Proverbs 3:3 summarizes the necessary virtues a public servant needs to possess: both a herald of *truth* and a man or woman of *love*. *Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.* Solomon’s

use of the words *neck* and *heart* bespeak of both *love* (*kindness*) and *truth* as being a part of a person’s outward and inward adornment. The meaning of the Hebrew word for *heart* (*leb*) includes the aspects of your intellect, emotion and will.

The mature believer possesses *love* and *truth* simultaneously in full measure.

Because the loving public servant’s priorities are straight, he or she is neither inwardly nor outwardly a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. Even when heralding the truth on the floor, such speech should be couched in words of *love*.

How to Become a Marginalized Public Servant

You won’t have to be in office long before you observe certain members who become marginalized, ineffective, and discarded by others because they double down on truth at the expense of love. Don’t follow in their footsteps. It is essential that you are as loving as you are truthful!

VERSE OF THE WEEK



1 Corinthians 13

Read 1 Corinthians 13



May you conscientiously and regularly cultivate the habitual traits of Christ’s unending love!



MINISTRY UPDATE

Capitol Ministries Expands Global Reach at Baptist World Alliance Congress in Australia



Inspired by the command of Jesus Christ to serve as His witnesses “to the remotest part of the earth,” a Capitol Ministries team undertook an extensive journey to Brisbane, Australia. Valeriu Ghiletchi departed from Chisinau, Moldova; Frank Cuozzo traveled from Honolulu, Hawaii; and Dr. Julian Kivori commenced his trip from Papua New Guinea. Despite their diverse backgrounds and points of origin, these three men were united by a singular mission: to identify and recruit new ministry leaders during the Baptist World Alliance Congress, held from July 7 to 12, 2025.

For the vast majority of delegates, Capitol Ministries’

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The Preeminence of Love

B. LOVE OVER LEADING (13:2)

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.

Interpreting the second verse of chapter 13 to be a statement of the primacy of *love* over leadership is not a stretch. A public servant who knows the Word of God, possesses faith and is acutely *knowledgeable* of all the policy issues—a visionary leadership for his or her personal and party’s future—but does not possess a genuine, heartfelt *love* for people amounts to *nothing*, the Scripture states emphatically. The phrase *so as to remove mountains* is Pauline hyperbole² (also seen in verse 7) and intended to emphasize the conveyable meaning “to make what seems impossible possible.”³ You may already be a great leader or aspire to be one in American government—a man or woman of great *faith* who may be able to achieve what others deem impossible—but never forget that *loving* people is more important. Especially *love* those who have nothing to do with helping you to accomplish your leadership objectives. Don’t kid yourself into thinking that people don’t take notice of self-centeredness.

C. LOVE OVER SELF-SACRIFICE (13:3)

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Most assuredly, a person who gives sacrificially of time, talent, and treasure is to be exalted above those who do not. But in comparison to *love*, sacrificial qualities are of lesser significance. In fact, a life of personal sacrifice for whatever objectives wanes in comparison to a life of *loving* others. The individual who lacks *love* is woefully deficient.

“Love is the indispensable addition which alone gives worth to all other Christian gifts.”⁴

Lord, help us to get this—to work on being more *loving*!

Life in the Capitol, in the community, or in the home without *love* is nothing (*oudeis*), which means “nothing at all.” How are you doing as a preeminently *loving* person—a *lover* of people and especially your spouse if you are married?

What follows the essentiality of *love* in the inspired mind of the Apostle Paul are the biblically-objective indications of *love*, and they should help to answer the question “Am I a *loving* person?” The biblical objective supersedes analyzing subjective feelings that may or may not accurately reflect one’s real *love* quotient.



III. THE ELEMENTS OF LOVE
(1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7)

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

After first stating for openers what *love* is—*love is patient and kind*—Paul then describes the characteristic elements where *love* does not exist. The following seven descriptors on this inspired-by-God passage list what *love is not*. Sometimes the best way to describe something is to state what it's not.

After briefly examining and defining all of these virtues in 1 Corinthians 13, review Colossians 3:12-14 for additional insights relative to the emotional aspects of *love* in order to round out the study because *love* is emotive as well. (However, let's be careful not to get the cart before the horse.)

Keep in mind that emotions, both good and bad, always stem from a person's thinking, both proper and improper.

Given our cultural misunderstanding of *love*, it is essential to approach and teach on *love* in this order: 1 Corinthians 13 before Colossians 3.

A. LOVE IS PATIENT
(MAKROTHUMEO)

Patient literally means “suffers long.” This first characteristic is the ability to be taken advantage of by a person many times and not be upset. The root word means “to persevere.” James uses this same Greek word in describing the attitudinal response of the prophets of old whose words went unheeded by their peers (cf. James 5:8). Program your mind with Philipians 1:6:

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

The *truth* of this passage will help sober you to the fact that God is not through sanctifying the other person—nor is He through sanctifying you! So be *patient*, not condemning nor judgmental! Remember, too, that since Christ forgave your sins—past, present and future—you must find room in your heart to forgive others who have wronged you. To be long-suffering and *patient* with another person's shortcomings is to be categorically *loving*!

B. LOVE IS KIND
(CHRESTEUOMAI)

The counterpart to *patience* is *kindness*. The Greek word means “to show oneself mild.” This characteristic willingly forgoes vengeance and gives gentleness to others, including enemies. The Greek root means “one desires and works for another's welfare.”

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mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ within the political arena was a strikingly new idea. Unlike in North America, many of the 136 nations represented at the Congress do not enjoy the full privilege of religious freedom. On the contrary, in some of these countries, political leaders have actively restricted religious expression and even persecuted Christians—leading many believers to overlook political leaders as a potential mission field.



“Each day, individuals from around the world visited our booth. For most of them, our ministry was entirely unfamiliar, which provided an excellent opportunity to share CapMin's vision and mission,” said Valeriu Ghiletchi, Ministry Leader for Europe. “Some were drawn

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by curiosity, while others approached with clear intention. We viewed every interaction as a divine appointment—knowing that the person we were speaking with could be the head of a Baptist association representing hundreds of thousands of believers and thousands of pastors.”



“Our primary goal was to help them understand that the Great Commission includes what we call the ‘missing mandate,’” said Frank Cuzzo, Assistant Global Director for the South Pacific and Ministry Leader in Hawaii. “It was truly encouraging to see pastors filling out response cards and expressing a desire to minister to their nations’ political leaders through Capitol Ministries. I am thrilled that we have collected 40 response cards from potential leaders in 18 countries—each one representing a story yet to be written.”

Julian Kivori, Global Director for the South Pacific, shared

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Kindness embodies the idea of good will, generous responses and actions in contradistinction to holding onto past bad memories and thence being bothered by another in the future, i.e., “He gets on my nerves.”

C. LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS
(ZELOO)

Literally the root means “earnestly desire.” Contextually, *jealousy* is similar to covetousness as it is used in this passage, carrying the idea of envy. *Jealousy* is a desire to have what another possesses as well as a fear that someone will take what you have. To the contrary,

Scripture commands us not to want what another possesses but rather to give to others what we possess.

We are to *rejoice with those who rejoice* (Romans 12:15). Choose to be glad for those who have—more talent, success, popularity, or beauty—versus being *jealous* or envious.

Are you the biggest cheerleader of your spouse, children, grandchildren, and colleagues?

D. LOVE DOES NOT BRAG
(PERPEREUOMAI)

Literally, *brag* means “to talk conceitedly.” The mature in Christ have for-

gotten about self-importance. They center on others—not self. Proverbs 27:2 states:

Let another praise you and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

Furthermore, be characterized by asking sincere questions of others. Cultivate personal curiosity while talking little about self. Don’t be quick to add your personal stories to every conversation in the crowds in which you circulate. Everyone already gets the point; they don’t need to hear your long-winded illustration that includes individuals about whom they know nothing. Spending your time asking questions of others and giving short answers when asked a question is far better. *Love does not brag.*

When joining a conversation, think, “What can I learn from this person?” versus “What can I tell them about me?”

E. LOVE IS NOT ARROGANT
(PHUSIOO)

The word *arrogant* literally means “to puff or blow up.” The missionary, William Carey, who translated the Bible into 34 languages, was once belittled at a banquet. An *arrogant* man



said to him, “Mr. Carey, I understand that you were once a shoemaker.”

Carey replied, “I was not a shoemaker, only a shoe repairman!”

Strive to be big-hearted, not big-headed. Make it a habit to deemphasize self in the presence of others. Proverbs 16:18 states:

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.

Reciprocally, keep in mind James 4:6:

God ... gives grace to the humble.

F. LOVE DOES NOT ACT UNBECOMINGLY (ASCHEMONEO)

This characteristic describes someone who cares so little for those around him that he acts without proper decorum for the occasion; he acts rudely or impolitely and perhaps even in a crude manner.

Work always on showing sensitivity for others. Always display respect for another regardless of the person’s position or ability to assist in your objectives.

G. LOVE DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN (ZETEO HEAUTOU)

Jesus *did not come to be served, but to serve* (Matthew 20:28). Be occupied with the needs of others—not your own. Philippians 2:3 states:

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.

This is essential Christianity! Are the objectives of your spouse or your colleagues *more important* to you than your own?

What will you do by way of time, talent, and treasure for your spouse or colleague that will spell out to her or him in no unmistakable actions that you cherish her or him above yourself?

One of the measurable aspects of *love* is not seeking your self-interests continually. Coach John Wooden stressed to his players to adopt the daily habit of doing a *kind* deed for someone who in no way could recompense the them. That habit is an excellent one because it keeps reminding us: *love does not seek its own.*

H. LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED (PAROXUNO)

Literally, *provoke* means “to irritate, arouse to anger.” *Love* guards against being upset, irritated or angered. Remember, *love* is *kind*. People who are intent on having their own way are

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that he met pastors from Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Samoa with the intent of launching ministry efforts in their respective island nations.



During one of the evening receptions, the Capitol Ministries team was introduced to two political leaders from the Queensland Parliament of Australia: the Hon. Fiona Simpson, MP, and Senator Paul Scarr. They shared with Valeriu Ghiletschi that they occasionally gather for a prayer breakfast. “I was deeply encouraged to hear this,” Valeriu said. “I quickly shared with them the Bible study model we use to minister to political leaders, and it strongly resonated with Parliamentarian Simpson,

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who expressed genuine interest in this missiological approach.” Valeriu described the conversation as “honey to his ears” and noted that it may be time to begin praying intentionally for the launch of Capitol Ministries in Australia.



One evening, the former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from Nagaland, India, stopped at CapMin booth. He was greatly encouraged to learn about Capitol Ministries. Nagaland, known as the most Christian state in India, has a strong faith presence. He said, “Please come to Nagaland, and let’s have a training conference in India.”

A leader of a Baptist Church Association from Nigeria also visited the booth and was very

Continued next page

easily *provoked* when denied what they want.⁵

the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14)?

I. LOVE DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A WRONG SUFFERED (LOGIZOMAI)

J. LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS (ADIKIA)

The Greek word has the idea of not “ledgering” the *wrongs* someone has done and keeping a log. To the contrary,

Isaiah warns, *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil* (5:20). Sacrificing *truth* is not *loving*. The presence of sin in another person should not be applauded. For sure, the biblical concept of *love* is not emotional sentimentality devoid of *truth*.

An important early church father, Chrysostom, remarked that a wrong done against love is like a spark that falls into the sea and is extinguished forever.

K. LOVE REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH (ALETHEIA)

Love cares that what another believes is *truthful*. Allowing another to be hurt by lies is not *loving*. What an individual believes (and then acts upon) is determinative to personal, familial, and national destinies. Therefore, *love* does not *rejoice* with erroneous thinking.⁶

The famous saying, “Don’t get mad, get even,” illustrates the opposite idea to Paul’s intent in this passage. If you are a Christian, your response must be to forgive and forget. Do not encourage in yourself a memory of an elephant. Praise God He does not take into consideration our past sin! When you tightly clasp the virtue of Christ’s forgiveness, you are enabled to forsake the bondage of bitterness. Don’t keep a **log**; it is not *loving*. Paul, who was more ill-treated than you or I will ever be, declared, *forgetting what lies behind* (Philippians 3:13). Can the same be said of you? Do you instead *press on toward the goal for*

The following remaining four elements of *love* are stated using a literary device known as hyperbole, i.e., exaggeration in order to make a strong point. (See endnote 2.) The repetition of the phrase *all things* therefore relates to *all things* within the confines of God’s righteousness, will and tolerance.

L. LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS (STEGO)

Literally, the word *bears* means “to cover.” *Love covers a multitude of sins* (1 Peter 4:8; cf. Proverbs 10:12).



You can measure your love for another by how quickly you are willing and apt to forgive and forget, to move on relative to another's faults.

God's nature—and the faithful believer's actions—must emulate God's revealed character in Psalm 103:12:

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Accordingly, in order for us to be as *loving* as Jesus expects us to be requires our being forgiving and forgetful.

M. LOVE BELIEVES ALL THINGS (PISTEUO)

Love trusts and is confident, without suspicion or cynicism. Even after past hurts for having trusted, *love* still trusts. Keep taking risks in your relationships! Far better to trust and be hurt again than to end up living life alone and bitter.

N. LOVE HOPES ALL THINGS (ELPIZO)

Hope literally means “to anticipate with pleasure.” Jesus did not take Peter's failure as final. The believer continues to *hope* that sinners will someday turn from their sin and

that believers will someday mature in Christlikeness, for to lose *hope* is equivalent to losing *love*. Again, and similar to the virtue of *patience*. Paul said in Philippians 1:6, *I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.* Remember, as long as God's grace remains operational in this world, human failure is never final. People do learn from their mistakes; *hope* for the best in a person relative to his or her future. When you carry such an optimistic attitude toward others, you are *loving*!

O. LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS (HUPOMENO)

This Greek word was used in reference to an army that held its position no matter what the cost! *Love* holds fast to the one it *loves*, standing against all opposition. *Love* remains loyal—even when the object of *love* is less than perfect.

Though these fifteen virtues may seem mechanical, they will, however, produce the emotions of *love* that are critically important to every human being and necessary to tying us together for the long run!

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inquisitive about the ministry. We explained that our calling is to pray for those in authority rather than criticize or condemn them. The next day, he returned and brought two pastors from his association, so they could also learn about our ministry.

The team returned to their respective countries filled with enthusiasm and hope, praying that the seeds planted during their time in Australia would bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God.



Do you sense a call from God to evangelize, disciple, and teach the Word of God to public servants in your community? Scan the QR code below to learn more and get started





Oliver Wolcott



“May the Divine Redeemer conduct us to that seat of bliss which He himself has prepared for His friends; at the approach of which every sorrow shall vanish from the human heart and endless scenes of glory open upon the enraptured eye. There our love to God and each other will grow stronger, and our pleasures never be dampened by the fear of future separation.”

— Oliver Wolcott, signer of the Declaration of Independence; military general; governor of Connecticut.

Letters of Delegates to Congress: January 1, 1776-May 15, 1776, Paul H. Smith, editor (Washington DC: Library of Congress, 1978), Vol. 3, pp. 502-503, Oliver Wolcott to Laura Wolcott on April 10, 1776.

Keep in mind, theologically speaking, all of these attributes of *love* already and completely exist in the life of the child of God per Colossians 2:10, *and in Him you have been made complete*. The believer is made positionally perfect before God at the point of salvation. How well a person responds to his new God-given, *loving* positional perfection in his everyday practice is a matter of obedience. All that explanation is to say this: no believer can rightfully reason, “I am just not a very *loving* person.” All believers are perfect in their *love*: the extent of your obedience to your new nature in Christ is the more appropriate self-analysis.

IV. THE EXUBERANCE OF LOVE

Colossians 3:12–14 speaks to the passions of *love*:

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

In light of all the perfect and sacrificial *love* Jesus Christ has displayed to and for the world (John 3:16), God expects nothing less in response from His followers.

The phrase, *heart of compassion* (*splagchnon oiktirmos*) speaks of the seat of emotions. These elements that

follow in this passage are very similar to those previously listed in 1 Corinthians 13 but are listed in Colossians in the context of having a heart of compassion.

God’s exuberant, supernatural love is poured out via the indwelling Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Again, and importantly, all of the elements of *love* presently exist in the believer’s heart (cf. Ephesians 1:3; Colossians 2:10; 2 Peter 1:3–4). It isn’t a matter of gaining these attributes; it is a matter of taking ownership and using them!

The essential, elemental, and exuberant aspects of *love*, as listed in 1 Corinthians and Colossians, are all characteristic ingredients of the truly redeemed, and these attributes should naturally flow forth in and from the life of every Spirit-filled follower of Christ!

V. THE ETERNITY OF LOVE

Now to address the closing passages on *love* as found in 1 Corinthians 13.

A. LOVE NEVER FAILS

Love is permanent. It is an attribute of God, which means it never withers or decays. It is not as if love is important to one generation and not to another.



The believer should view this permanence of *love* as a communicable attribute from God. *Love* is to be present and active in the life of every believer at all times and in every generation. Likened to Jesus we need to possess eternal, unfailing, ever-present *love*! *Agapé love* is part of the believer's very nature!

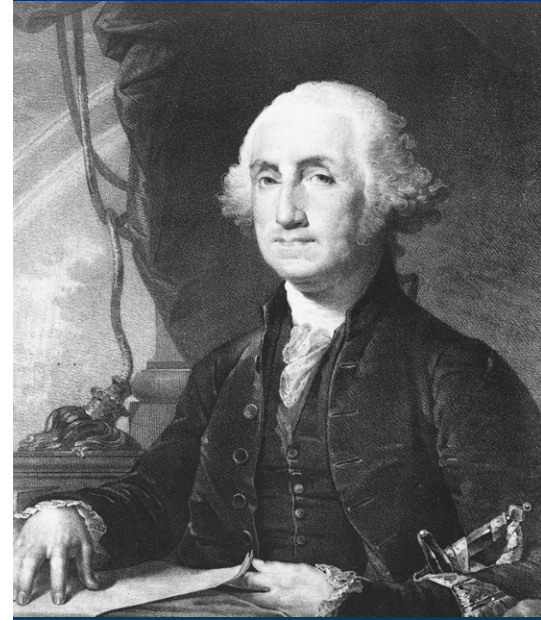
May these virtues be increasingly unfolding in your life! May you conscientiously and regularly cultivate and

develop the habitual traits of Christ's unending *love*!

The 1 Corinthians 13 passages go on to contrast the importance of *love* with the spiritual gifts in the body of Christ (another study with a great deal of complexity).

May God help you to put on the very nature every believer already possesses: the essential, elemental, exuberant and eternal aspects of *love*. Amen!

George Washington



“I now make it my earnest prayer that God would ... most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of the mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion.”

— George Washington, first president of the United States, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, member of the Continental Congress, president of the Constitutional Convention, “Father of His Country,” judge.

George Washington, *The Last Official Address of His Excellency George Washington to the Legislature of the United States* (Hartford: Hudson and Goodwin, 1783), p. 12; see also *The New Annual Register or General Repository of History, Politics, and Literature, for the Year 1783* (London: G. Robinson, 1784), 150.



1. David Prior, *The Message of 1 Corinthians, The Bible Speaks Today Series* (Nottingham, England: InterVarsity Press, 1985). 229–30.
2. In the literary genre of Scripture, as in the best of writing today, various figurative devices are inculcated to communicate both effectively and artfully. These devices would include the use of simile, allegory, ellipsis, metaphor, paradox, irony, euphemisms, etc. In 1 Corinthians 13:2 and 7, Paul uses the figurative device of hyperbole. In ancient times, the people of the Middle East used intensified exaggerated expressions to convey a thought with more force. An additional example would be what the Apostle John states in his gospel about the life of Christ: *“I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written”* (21:25). [cf. E. W. Bullinger, *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible* (London: Messrs. Eyre, and Spottiswoode, 1889), 171ff.] Such insights defy a wooden literalistic approach (of which Evangelicals are often falsely accused) to biblical interpretation/hermeneutics.
3. H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck, *Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch, 1922–1928*, As quoted in C. K. Barrett, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*, The Black’s New Testament Commentary Series (London: Hendrickson Publishers, 1968), 301.
4. Ibid, 303. This quote in its tightest context relates to the point of chapter 13 in comparison to chapters 12 and 14. The application of the quote is nonetheless an appropriate capstone as used in the placement of these notes.
5. The exception to not being provocative is when a person maligns or contradicts God’s Word. Being provoked over such is akin to righteous indignation.
6. Herein biblical Christianity conflicts with Postmodernism in that the Christian faith is based upon per-spicious moral absolutes as explicated in and through propositional *truth*, i.e., infallible and inerrant biblical revelation.



*Making Disciples
of Jesus Christ
in the Political Arena
Throughout the World*



Capitol Ministries provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, Capitol Ministries has started ongoing ministries in more than forty U.S. state capitols and dozens of foreign federal capitols.

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