**PP Love Is…**

**Part 10-1 Corinthians 13:7 11/2-3/2024**

**PP *“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”* 1 Co 13:7**

This is important: **PP** *This love is primarily for us, the church, that we could love each other well*

It is to turn us away from ourselves so we want to help each other progress in this Christian life

We are about to see this clearly in the next four virtues that Paul gives, and we will see four

times, the phrase ***‘all things’*** repeated

The word ***‘things’*** is actually not in the text, but put there by translators to give some meaning

What *is* there is the word ***‘all’*** which means comprehensive

There is no situation, ever, when we can stop bearing, believing, hoping and enduring

**PP** **1-Love holds people up because it *‘bears all things’***

The word **PP** ***‘bears’*** is a word for a support wall, or a pillar that holds up the roof

God’s love that has been poured out into us, holds others up in all things

Love will find the good in others even if there is not much of it to find

Several of you are great examples to me of those who hold others up, supporting them, finding

good in them, and turning conversations to grace and mercy

And that right there is what it means to love in a way that bears all things…mercy

It will not excuse sin, it will not soften sin, but neither will love throw the sinner away

It will seek to come under the sinner, and hold that person up to get right with God

Not spreading gossip, not finding fault, not being judgmental, but support and help

Love does not need to address every fault in a person, everything a person does wrong

We all have weaknesses, what the bible calls clay feet, and while love doesn’t seek out those

shortcomings in others, it will address them if they will lead to the person’s collapse

It will not nag, nor will it sweep things under a rug looking the other way

At the same time, love will not throw the person away, give up on the sinner, but move toward

the sinner without fail to hold them accountability

Agape love holds each other accountable, lending strength to one another

It doesn’t say, *I know what you did, and I am going to ruin your life*, but *I know what you did,*

*and I am coming around you to help you never do it again*

When we see ruinous sin in each other, we must love enough to address it, and here is why

Sin always, without exception leads to personal ruin and often the ruin of others

Love says, I want you to flourish, to have delight and satisfaction, and this sin is ruining you, so I

will come alongside to hold you up, protect you and help you overcome it

**PP *“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”***

 **1 Peter 4:8**

Love is a covering of grace and mercy that is placed over the sinner

It does not bring the hammer every time, does not point out fault every time, but gives mercifully

and graciously addressed the sin in the person

In fact, if you see sin in another believer, and you do not graciously address it, you are not loving

at all, but selfish, worried that they may get angry with you, that they may point out your

faults

To bear all things is to live out this boast, *I will never stop loving you, no matter what!*

**PP 2-Love always believes the best in others…*‘believes all things’***

One of the most difficult things to do, is ever trust someone again who violates it

It really is often true, that **PP** *We make people what we believe them to be*

Love is not blind in the sense that it will believe someone without evidence, but it will not

condemn without proof and instead gives the benefit of the doubt

Furthermore, it will not refuse to ever believe the wrongdoer again, but is willing to trust again

It won’t write people off, never giving them another chance, it is ready to believe *when* there is

evidence of change

It eagerly looks for that change so that trust can be reestablished, but it is not blind or foolish

Let’s look and see what a loving heart is looking for in someone who has violated trust

**PP *“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas***

***worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in***

***you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what***

***longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves***

***innocent in the matter.”* 2 Corinthians 7:10-11**

**PP i.** ***‘Earnestness’***, the serious urgency to make the necessary changes immediately

**PP ii.*‘eagerness to clear yourselves’*** is the all-consuming desire to clear the conscience

**PP iii.** ***‘indignation’***, the holy hatred toward personal sin that has led to the trust violation

**PP iv**. ***‘fear’*** is shock of clearly seeing what was done, and the damage it has caused

**PP v.** ***‘longing’*** is the painful desire to do whatever is necessary to restore the relationship

**PP vi. *‘zeal’***-the willingness to do whatever is necessary to deal with the sin that caused the hurt

**PP vii.** ***‘Punishment’***-the acceptance of full responsibility without blame shifting or excusing

It is often the case that those who have been hurt in the past, will not trust others in the future

You look for reasons not to trust, and nearly no one will be able to pass your tests

Unless there is absolute proof to the contrary, love will trust, will think the best in others, and

when gossip comes along that tears someone down, love will say, *Unless I see it I don’t*

*believe it*

**PP 3-Love will not lose hope: *“hopes all things”***

One of my favorite words in the bible is ***‘hope’*** and we’ll discuss it more in two weeks

**PP** *Hope is confidence for the future because I’m persuaded God has been faithful in the past*

Love that ***‘hopes all things’*** has a confidence that failure is not final, the story is not finished and

you are invited to be a co author in the book of this person’s life

God is still active, change can still occur

It is hope that keeps us from rushing to judgment, hope that strengthens us to help others

Hope is reasonable optimism for someone’s future, trusting in the gracious work of God

**PP 4-Love will not give up or give out: *“endures all things”***

**PP** ***‘endures all things’*** means to remain steadfast and persevere

*Endures* describes the soldier who in battle, will not quit no matter what the odds, battling on

Nothing dismays agape love, not rejection, not hurt, not sin, nothing

Love simply continues!

1900 years ago, a famous church father, Clement of Alexandria, told this story about the Apostle

John, who while helping the church at Smyrna, left in charge there an elder named Ruben

There, a young man named Marcus had caught his eye, and John told Ruben before he left, *“I*

*commit this youth to you, in the presence of all here and Christ.”*

Ruben took Marcus under his wing and trained him and loved him as a son, baptizing him

But Ruben grew lax in his spiritual care of Marcus, and the young man began to make friends

with those who were morally corrupt

Eventually, Marcus became the captain of this group of corrupt thieves and murderers

Some years passed and John again visited the church and immediately asked to see Marcus

Ruben burst into tears, crying, *“He is dead. He is dead to God; he turned to wickedness and*

*abandoned the Way. He is now a leader of a gang of bandits that live in that mountain*

*over there”, he said while pointing to the nearby mountain.”*

John shouted, *“Bring me a horse and a guide; I want to find Marcus and his gang!”*

As they rode up into the mountains, nearing the hideout, the bandits captured John and his

guide, and without waiting, and with authority, John said, *“Lead me to your captain.”*

With a look at the determined man, they took the two captives to their camp

When they arrived, Marcus, recognizing John, fled in shame and guilt with John in pursuit,

crying out, *“My son, why do you flee from me, your father, old and unarmed? Fear not,*

*you still have hope of life, I will pray for Christ’s forgiveness. If needs be, I will take your*

*death, as the Lord died for us. For you, my son, I will surrender my life! Stop now and*

*believe, Christ has sent me to you today!”*

The fleeing captain of the bandits stopped, fell to the ground, shaking and weeping

John fell to his knees next to the repentant sinner and held him as Marcus cried out to the Lord,

confessing his life of sin

The great Apostle, with a love that would not give up, led the young man down from the

mountains, out of his life of thievery, back to the church where he was accepted

In all things, Love will not give up or out!

So church, how do we learn to love in a way that bears, believes, hopes and endures all things?

**PP** First, remember Who’s love is in your heart

**PP *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born***

***of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is***

***love.”* 1 John 4:7-8**

**PP** Second, look to Jesus, because this is how He loved others

**PP *“[Jesus] is patient and kind; [Jesus] does not envy or boast; [He] is not arrogant or rude.***

***[He] does not insist on [His] own way; [Jesus] is not irritable or resentful; [He] does***

***not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. [Jesus] bears all things, believes***

***all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [His] love never ends.”***

**1 Corinthians 13:4–8**

**PP** Third, remember that the moment you believed, not only was God’s own love poured into

your heart, His Spirit came into your heart to help you learn to love

Loving like Jesus is a process of growth, as God changes you from the inside out as you walk

closely with Him, giving you new desires, new capabilities, new motivations

**PP** Finally, pray like never before, that God would help you live a life of amazing, powerful love