

# **A More Excellent Way**

**I Corinthians 13.1 -  
13.13**

# **I. Introduction**

# **A. Noise**

## **B. Harmony in the Body**

***But covet earnestly the best gifts; and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.***

**- I Corinthians 12.31**

## **II. Spiritual Fact (1 - 3)**

# **A. Love**

***Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two laws hang all the law and the prophets. - Matthew 22.37 - 22.40***

**B. Nothing**

# **III. Properties of Love (4 - 7)**

**A. Love is Not**

## **Love envies not**

Is not jealous. Does not envy others. Is not angry at the good of others. When there is envy everyone strives to be first, and there cannot be love. Love and jealousy are mutually exclusive. One of the hardest battles a Christian must fight against is jealousy. Jealousy is not a harmless sin but has the potential to do great damage.

## **Love vaunteth not itself**

Does not boast. Does not brag. Does not talk conceitedly. Bragging is trying to make others jealous. Does not seek the applause of men. Does not promote his own interests.

## **Is not puffed up**

Is not swelled with pride. Is not arrogant. Does not despise others. Does not have a vain conceit of oneself.

## **Doth not behave unseemly**

Observes moderation and propriety. Does not use unbecoming words or indecent actions. No filthy or corrupt communication proceeds out of his mouth. Is not shameful. Does not flatter. Does not treat others with contempt and scorn. Does not have poor manners. Is not insensitive to the feelings of others. Does not behave rudely.

## **Seeketh not her own**

Is not selfish. Not devoted to self.

Does not seek to hurt or neglect others.

Does not want to get its own way. Not preoccupied with its own rights.

## **Is not easily provoked**

Not quick tempered. Does not quarrel.

Does not become angry easily. Is not provoked to wrath. Is not resentful.

Does not have sudden outbursts of emotion. Does not react in self defense or retaliation.

## **Thinketh no evil**

Does not think of the evil done to him by another, but freely and fully forgives. Does not plan or devise evil. It does not entertain suspicion of evil motives in others without cause. Does not have malice. Does not seek revenge. Does not keep a record of wrongs.

## **Rejoiceth not in iniquity**

Does not rejoice in his own sin or the sin of others, but grieves and mourns over his own sin. Does not enjoy the immorality of the world, but is troubled by it. Does not take pleasure in doing injury or hurt to others. Does not gossip. Gossip is rejoicing in the sin of others. Gossip is the sin that Christians take lightly, but it does great

**B. Love Is**

## **Love suffers long**

Promotes peace and harmony. Is patient. Can endure injury without being resentful. Wants to heal and restore.

## **Love is kind**

Extending good to others. Does good to all men. Gentle. Courteous. Seeks to be useful to others. Searches for ways to do good. It is good natured. Serving.

## **Rejoiceth in the truth**

Delights in God's Word. Love cannot compromise the truth or tolerate hypocrisy. Encourages others to do good. Builds others up. Rejoices when the Gospel is shared with the lost.

## **Bearth all things**

Bears the burdens of fellow Christians. Bears in silence all annoyances and troubles. Freely forgives the wrongs done by others. Covers a multitude of sins. Tries to correct sin in private and with the least possible hurt and harm to the sinner. Love never protects sin but protects the sinner.

## **Believeth all things**

Thinks favorably of others. Believes all of God's Word and His promises. Apt to believe well of others. Apt to make the best of everything. Is trustworthy.

## **Hopeth all things**

Hopes for the accomplishment of all that God promises. Hopes for heaven and eternal happiness. Hopes the best for all men.

## **Endureth all things**

Endures persecutions, trials, and tribulations in a patient and loving spirit. Stands against overwhelming opposition. Never stops. Never gives up.

# **C. The Test**

# **IV. Love Does not End**

## **(8 - 12)**

# **A. Spiritual Gifts are Temporary**

# **B. Tongues**

***Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.***

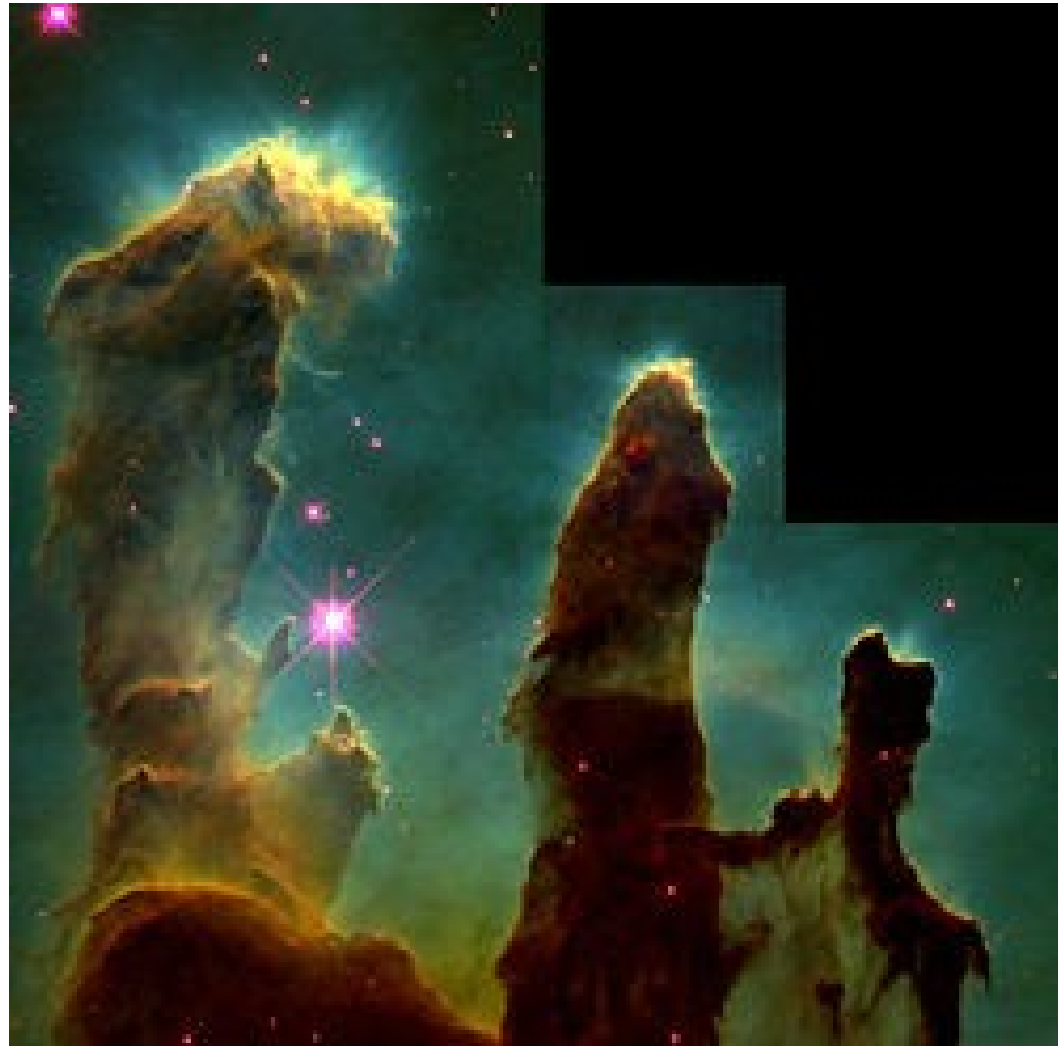
**- I Corinthians 13.8 (NKJV)**

***How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation: which at the first began to be spoken by **the Lord**, and was confirmed unto us by **them that heard him**; God also bearing them witness, both with **signs and wonders**, and with divers **miracles**, and **gifts of the Holy Ghost**, according to his own will?***

**- Hebrews 2.3, 2.4**

# **C. The Imperfect and the Perfect**





# **V. Love is Supreme (13)**

# **A. Faith and Hope**

# **B. Love**

# **VI. Conclusion**



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