



The POWER
of
LOVE

God's secret for joyful,
fearless, victorious living

Reb Bradley

The Power of Love

A study in 1 Corinthians 13

Syllabus and Study Guide

Reb Bradley

FAMILY MINISTRIES PUBLISHING
Sheridan, California

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PO Box 266
Sheridan, California 95681
www.familyministries.com

Order line (800) 545-1729

A 6-week series recorded at Hope Chapel Christian Fellowship

All Bible quotes:
New International Version unless otherwise stated

THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVE

A. vs 1-2

to minister is insignificant without

Mat 7:22-23 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Judas

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go ... 17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

B. vs 3 Acts which appear to be

and

may lack love

Acts 5:1-11 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6 Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. 7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." 9 Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." 10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

C. vs 1-3 Love is the motive which validates

2 Cor 5:14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

II. WHAT LOVE IS AND IS NOT

A. Love endures a long time. Without there is no love.

makrothumeo, mak-roth-oo-meh'-o; long-spirited, forbearing; long-suffering, patiently endure.

Prov 10:12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

1 Pet 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2 Tim 2:25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

B. Love those who may not

chresteuomai, khra-ste-yoo'-om-ahee; to show oneself useful, i.e. act benevolently:--be kind.

Psa 82:3-4 Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. 4 Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Prov 31:20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy ... 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Luke 6:35-36 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2 Pet 1:6-7 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

1 John 3:16-18 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 4:11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

C. Love ...

1. Love is not -- it is for others

zeloo, dzay-lo'-o; to have warmth of feeling for or against, covet, be jealous over

James 3:14-16 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

1 Pet 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

1 Cor 3:3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Rom 13:13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

2 Cor 12:20 For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Gal 5:21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God ... 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

1 Tim 6:4 he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions

2. Love is not -- it builds up not

perpereuomai, per-per-yoo'-om-ahee; to brag or vaunt

Prov 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Eccl 7:8-9 The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. 9 Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.

1 Cor 1:31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

1 Cor 4:7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

3. Love is not -- it is

phusioo, foo-see-o'-o; to inflate, puff up; ie, over-exalted self-view

1 Cor 4:18 Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you.

1 Cor 5:2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?

1 Cor 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

Col 2:18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

Phil 2:1-5 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

4. Love is not -- it is of others feelings
aschemoneo, as-kay-mon-eh'-o; to behave unbecomingly or repulsively

1 Cor 7:36 But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin [daughter], if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry. (NKJV)

5. Love is not -- it seeks only the of others
zeteo, dzay-teh'-o; to seek; to worship; desire

Lev 19:18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Mk 12:31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Also Mat 22:39)

Rom 13:9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (Also James 2:8)

Gal 5:14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

1 Corinthians 10:24 Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others ... 33 even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

1 Corinthians 12:25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Philippians 2:3-5 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6. Love is not -- it is more for others than self
paroxuno, par-ox-oo'-no; to sharpen alongside, i.e. (fig.) to exasperate:--easily provoke, stir.

Proverbs 14:17 A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated.

James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

Colossians 3:8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Ephesians 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

7. Love keeps no It forgives and gives
logizomai, log-id'-zom-ahee; to take an inventory, keep a list

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

8. Love does not in evil -- it is concerned for those who are
adikia, ad-ee-kee'-ah; injustice; unrighteousness

Rom 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

See also Rom 13:4 De 32:35,43 Ps 94:1-3 Na 1:2,3 Heb 10:30

D. Love does not delight when another is victim to a , but . . .
with the truth

LOVE PROTECTS, TRUSTS, AND HOPES

1 Corinthians 13:6-8

E. Those we love, we _____ from others and our own
stego, steg'-o; to roof over, i.e. to cover with silence (endure patiently), to forbear, to suffer

GOD:

- Provides a guardian for our souls – the Good Shepherd // gave his life for the sheep
- Guards us against overwhelming trials -- 1 Cor 10:13
- Provided protective guidelines -- the Word // He gives us the Holy Spirit

F. Love always _____ -- _____ all things -- it risks and trusts God

Wise as serpents . . .

Mat 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

*Acts 15:37 **Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.***

G. Love always _____ --- tries to think the _____ of others

LOVE PERSEVERES AND NEVER FAILS

1 Corinthians 13:7-8

I. True love up under
Rom 12:12; 2 Cor 1:6

is worn out & used up

-- perseveres, endures, remains faithful, hangs in there

love

-- conditional; is worn out & used up

PERSEVERES hupomeno, hoop-om-en'-o; to stay under or behind, i.e. remain; to undergo, to bear trials, have fortitude, abide, endure, take patiently, suffer, tarry behind.

Isaiah 49:15-16 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! 16 See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.

Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Col 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

II. Love

(never fails) despite distractions

ekpipto, ek-pip'-to; to drop away; to be driven out of one's course; figuratively, to fail, lose, become inefficient: --be cast, fall (away, off), take none effect.

III. THE NATURE OF LOVE

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