

# **“The Greatest of These is Love”**

(Compiled by Paul R Blake from Internet Sources)

## Introduction:

- A. 1Cor. 12:31, 13:13
  - 1. This virtue will facilitate growth in favor with God and man - Luke 2:52
  - 2. This virtue will present each man perfect in Christ - Col. 1:28-29, 3:14
  - 3. This virtue forms the basis of righteousness - 1John 3:10
- B. Bible love is unique and wonderful above all loves of this earth
  - 1. We must avoid doctrine without love - 1Cor. 13:1-3
  - 2. We must avoid love without doctrine - 2Chron. 19:2

## **I. LOVE IS THE GREATEST DUTY OF MAN**

- A. Love of others is not a suggestion, but a commandment of God; this necessarily means that Bible love is based on a choice to dedicate ourselves to wellbeing of those we have chosen to love
  - 1. 1Peter 1:22, 2:17; 1John 3:23
- B. Love is the first law of our relationship with God and the first law of our relationship with each other; it is the royal law, and is the foundation of all God given law
  - 1. Mark 12:28-34; James 2:8; Gal. 5:14
- C. We have been taught to love one another from the beginning
  - 1. 1John 3:11; John 15:12, 17
- D. Our sanctification and state of holiness requires an increasing love for others
  - 1. 1Thes. 3:12-13, 4:9-10
- E. Being God’s children requires growing in love - Eph. 5:1-2; Matt. 5:44-45, 48

## **II. LOVE IS THE GREATEST MANIFESTATION OF GRACE**

- A. Our nature when we served the Adversary was to live in hate
  - 1. Titus 3:3; 1John 3:11-14
- B. Our nature when we serve the Lord is to be transformed by His love and grace to love others
  - 1. Saul hated Christians intensely - Acts 9:1, 26:11
  - 2. But Paul loved them dearly - 2Cor 12:15

## **III. LOVE IS THE GREATEST EVIDENCE OF FAITH**

- A. Faith must be combined with love for it to be in evidence
  - 1. Gal. 5:6; Heb. 6:10; 1Peter 1:21-23
- B. Regeneration is proven by abounding in love
  - 1. 2Peter 1:5-11; 1John 3:16-19, 4:7-11
- C. We have no evidence that we love God unless we love the children of God
  - 1. 1John 4:20 - 5:1

## **IV. LOVE IS THE GREATEST MEANS OF GLORIFYING GOD**

- A. We may accomplish more good to God’s glory with love than anything else.
- B. Churches grow through edification and love - Eph. 4:15-16

- C. Everything we do is to be done with love, or it is of no value - 1Cor. 16:14
- D. Love can cover a multitude of sins - 1Peter 4:8
- E. Love moves others to rejoice as they observe our love in action
  - 1. Phil. 1:7; 2Cor. 9:12-13

**V. LOVE IS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF WELL BEING**

- A. We secure more blessings and peaceful lives by love than any other means.
  - 1. 1Peter 3:8-11; Prov. 15:17