



**“The Greatest of These is Love”
Part Three**

1Corinthians 12:31, 13:13

“The Greatest of These is Love”

- Lesson One
 - Love is the greatest duty of man
 - Love is the greatest manifestation of grace
 - Love is the greatest evidence of faith
 - Love is the greatest means of glorifying God
 - Love is the greatest source of well being
- Lesson Two
 - Love is the greatest measure of perfection

“The Greatest of These is Love”

- Lesson three
 - Love is the greatest precept
 - Love is the greatest challenge
- 1Cor. 12:31, 13:13 - “But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way... 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Love is more than a feeling; love keeps God's commandments toward others
 - 1John 5:2 - "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments."
 - 2John 1:6 - "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments."

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- This doctrine teaches that God's commandments are the best possible way to treat others
 - Matt. 7:12 - "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."
 - Matt. 22:39-40 - "And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
 - Rom. 13:8, 10 - "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law... 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

Love Is The Greatest Precept

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 - Matt. 7:12
 - Matt. 22:37-40
 - Rom. 13:8-10

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Love is involved in the work of removing sin of others
 - Lev. 19:17 - “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.”
 - Rev. 3:19 - “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- With their best interests at heart, you will work to help them to be saved from their sins
 - Prov. 9:8 - “Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.”
 - Prov. 27:5 - “Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed.”
 - Prov. 28:23 - “He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- How do parents show love for children?
 - Prov. 13:24 - “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”
 - Prov. 3:12 - “For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.”
 - Psalm 141:5 - “Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it.”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- How do parents show love for children?
 - Heb. 12:6-8 - “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Love renders kindness and compassion that resonates with everyone
 - 1Peter 3:8-9 - “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”
 - Rom. 12:10 - “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Love renders kindness and compassion that resonates with everyone
 - Phil. 2:1-4 - “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Love renders kindness and compassion that resonates with everyone
 - Eph. 4:1-3, 31-32 - “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Love renders kindness and compassion that resonates with everyone
 - Rom 14:15 - “Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.”
 - 1Cor. 8:1 - “Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.”
 - 1Cor. 10:33 - “Just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Love covers transgressions and forgives them repeatedly
 - Prov. 17:9 - “He who covers a transgression seeks love”
 - 1Peter 4:8 - “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.”
 - Matt 18:21-22 - “Then Peter came to Him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? 22 Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

Love Is The Greatest Precept

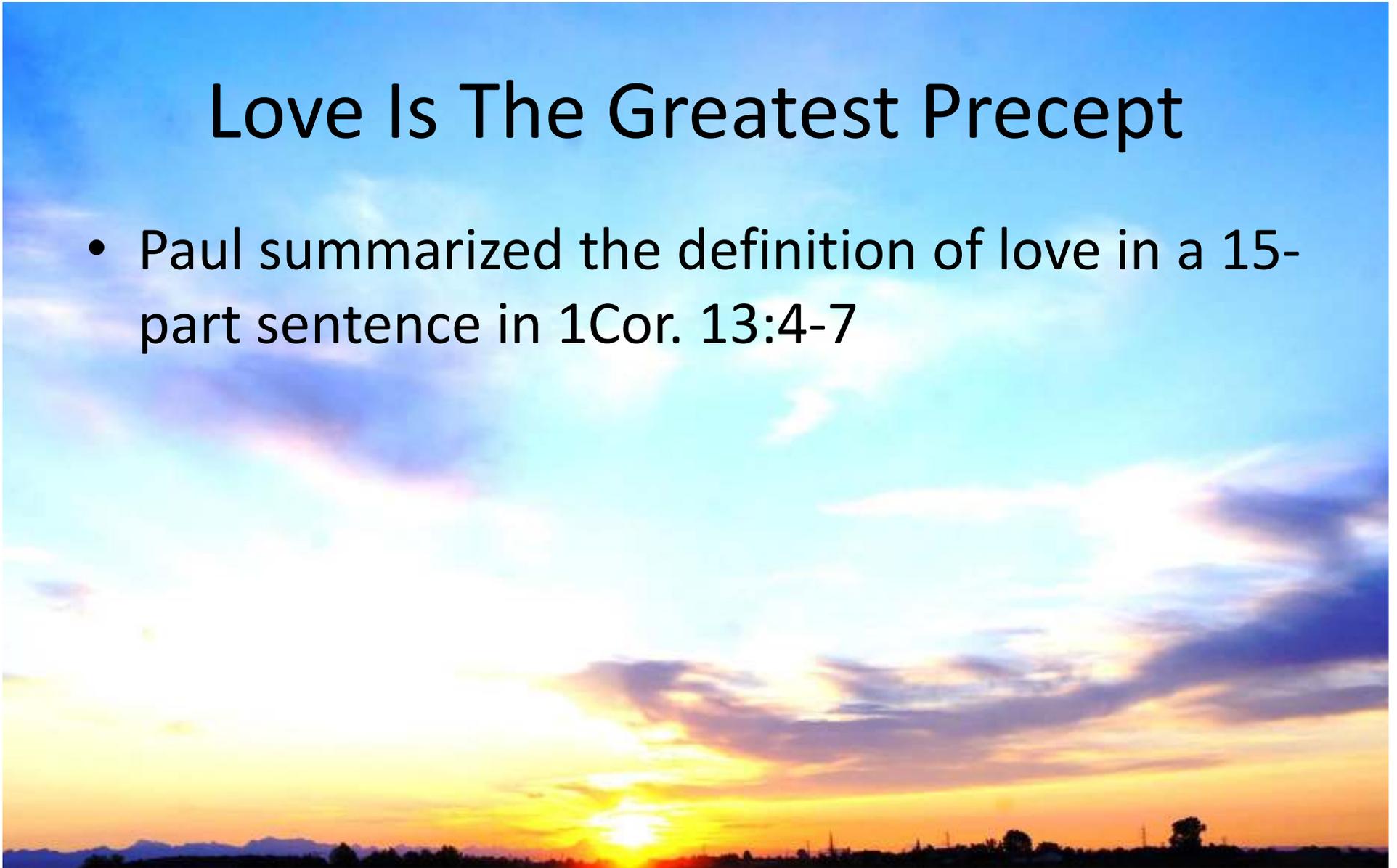
- Love is ... sacrificial desire resulting in action to help another realize God's best for his life.
- Love is ... sacrificial. It considers others more important than one's self and so gives up self.
- Love is ... desire. Love involves feelings and passion.
- Love is ... action. Love that is felt, believed, or professed is worthless. It must cause action.

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Love is ... help. It will recognize its role in adding others and refuses to overlook opportunity.
- Love is ... another. Love is not self-centered, but other-centered. Love looks away from self.
- Love is ... God's best. It knows that God's will and pleasure is the supreme goal for all men.
- Love is ... Jesus' life. It seeks the best for another's life, here and later, even at self's expense.

Love Is The Greatest Precept

- Paul summarized the definition of love in a 15-part sentence in 1Cor. 13:4-7



1Cor. 13:4-7

- Love suffers long. It will tolerate many offences and still love on - Prov. 10:12, 17:9, 19:11
- Love is kind. It considers others in gentle, benevolent ways - Prov. 19:22
- Love does not envy. It does not harbor jealous feelings toward others - Prov. 27:4
- Love does not exalt itself. It seeks rather to emphasize others - Prov. 13:10; Phil. 2:1-4
- Love is not puffed up. It does not think more highly of self than is right - 1Cor. 4:6, 5:2, 8:1

1Cor. 13:4-7

- Love does not behave unseemly. It behaves in a honorable way - Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:19
- Love seeks not its own. It will sacrifice self for others - 1Cor. 10:24, 33; Rom. 15:2; Eph. 5:25
- Love is not easily provoked. It will tolerate much before responding - James 1:19; Prov. 14:17
- Love thinks no evil. It will not allow suspicion, but rather believe the best - 1Tim 6:4
- Love does not rejoice in iniquity. It is grieved to see others sin - Lev. 19:17-18; Psalm 119:136

1Cor. 13:4-7

- Love rejoices in the truth. It is glad when its object is in the truth - 3John 1:3-4; James 3:17
- Love bears all things. It is willing to help others as much as possible - Rom. 15:1-2; Gal. 6:2
- Love believes all things. It places the best construction on others - 1Cor. 11:18
- Love hopes all things. When evidence mounts, it will hope for good - Phil. 1:21
- Love endures all things. It is not provoked by others' evil - 1Cor. 13:4

Love Is The Greatest Challenge

- The Adversary doesn't want you to understand Bible love; it is the greatest and most powerful enemy of his evil
- While we learn of love from God, we learn how to love by practicing love
- And that's the great challenge of love: how do you love someone you are not inclined to love or someone who has brought harm to you?
- By choosing to love them and then acting on your choice

Love Is The Greatest Challenge

- Accepting the challenge of Bible love
 - Rom. 12:9-18
- Accept the challenge and never turn back regardless
 - 2Cor. 12:15 - “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.”

Love Is The Greatest Challenge

- Love without regard to how you are loved in return
 - Rom. 5:6-8 - “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

“The Greatest of These is Love”

- Love is the only answer to sin. It is the answer God gave.
 - “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that” (Martin Luther King, Jr.).
- Love others regardless of whether they love you in return. That is how God loves us.
 - “You don't love someone because they're perfect, you love them in spite of the fact that they're not” (Jodi Picoult).

“The Greatest of These is Love”

- Love others for their own sake; make loving them who you are. Love is God’s defining characteristic.
 - “Love is that condition in which the happiness and well-being of others is essential to your own” (Robert Heinlein).
- Love must endure, regardless of how much we must bear. Consider what God has borne over the millennia out of His love for humankind.
 - “The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference” (Elie Wiesel).

“The Greatest of These is Love”

- Loving others transforms us into our best selves. It is what will make us like our heavenly Father.
 - “Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage” (Lao Tzu).

