

The Most Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 13

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And now I will show you the most excellent way.
1 Corinthians 12:31b (New International Version)

THE NECESSITY OF LOVE

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.
1 John 3:18 (NIV)

- If I don't demonstrate a life of love, my spiritual gifts don't really matter.
- If I don't demonstrate a life love, my personal sacrifice is of no benefit.

THE CHARACTER OF LOVE

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

THE PERMANENCE OF LOVE

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (NIV)