

## **“The Greatest of These Is Love”**

### **I Corinthians 13:1-8**

Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, said, “We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another.” Someone has called love the “circulatory system” of the body of Christ. Paul clearly states in this chapter the superiority of love over all other virtues or any of the spiritual gifts. God’s kind of love is characteristic of God’s essential nature (I John 4:8, “God is love”).

- I. Genuine love is Enduring (vv. 1-3)
  - A. It endures when there’s nothing else TO SAY (v. 1)
  - B. It endures when there’s nothing else TO KNOW (v. 2a)
  - C. It endures when there’s nothing else TO PREDICT (v. 2b)
  - D. It endures when there’s nothing else TO BELIEVE (v. 2c)
  - E. It endures when there’s nothing else TO GIVE (v. 3)
- II. Genuine love is EVIDENT (vv. 4-8) - evidences of love:
  - A. Love is PATIENT (v. 4a)
  - B. Love is KIND (v. 4b)
  - C. Love is NOT JEALOUS (v. 4c)
  - D. Love is NOT BOASTFUL (v. 4d)
  - E. Love is NOT ARROGANT (v. 4e)
  - F. Love is NOT UNBECOMING (v. 5a)
  - G. Love is NOT SELF-SEEKING (v. 5b)
  - H. Love is NOT PROVOKED (v. 5c)
  - I. Love DOES NOT HOLD GRUDGES (v. 5d)
  - J. Love DOES NOT REJOICE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS (v. 6a)
  - K. Love REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH (v. 6b)
  - L. Love BEARS ALL THINGS (v. 7a)
  - M. Love BELIEVES ALL THINGS (v. 7b)
  - N. Love HOPES ALL THINGS (v. 7c)
  - O. Love ENDURES ALL THINGS (v. 7d)
  - P. Love NEVER FAILS (v. 8a)

Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another” John 13:34-35).

The Apostle Paul declared, “The fruit of the Spirit is love...” (Gal. 5:22).

Of all the virtues a believer can develop and exhibit, “the greatest of these is love” (I Cor. 13:13).