

The apostle Paul ended chapter 12 saying he would show us a more excellent way. In chapters 1-12 we have seen the Corinthians lack of love as revealed in their areas of pride and prejudice. Now this week we will see this more excellent way that Paul was talking about.

Read the chapter at least twice and pray before starting. This is the abundant life that we all desire. We need to take the time to study and meditate on the truth found here so we will be able to apply it.

1. Go through and highlight the word “love” in this chapter. How many times did you see it?
2. Just from reading the chapter twice and highlighting this word what would you say is the theme of this chapter?
3. Sum up verses 1-2 in your own words.
4. Paraphrase verse 3.

Note verses 1-3 focus on the emptiness produced when love is not present.

5. Make a list for love as described in verses 4-8, then go back and briefly define each; then how it should work in the Christian home. What are the actions of love?

List describing
love

Definition

How it should
work in the
Christian home

6. Now go back and read your list with the descriptions added. Meditate for a few minutes on these actions, is your life lacking in any of these areas? To whom should we be showing this kind of love?
7. It is never enough for us to simply see where we need to improve our service for the Lord. We must pray and ask him to give us eyes that are sensitive to the many opportunities he brings; and the creativity to express love in ways that would please him. Why not stop for a few minutes and pray?

8. Verse 8 begins with the statement, "love never fails". (some translations read "never ends") Do you know why that would be? Read 1 John 4:7-8 then write out your answer.

9. Now Paul makes three statements in verses 8-9. What does he say will happen to?

•prophecies

•tongues

•knowledge

These were the spiritual gifts that were highly prized by the Corinthian believers who had written Paul. He is trying to direct their focus to things of eternal value.

10. What does Paul say in vs. 9-10?

"we know in _____ and we prophesy in _____, but when the _____ comes, the _____ will pass away."

11. What does verse 10 say will have happened that will bring this about? What exactly is Paul referring to here?

12. When we are in heaven, eternally living with God, praising him and enjoying his presence, would there be any need for these 3 spiritual gifts?

13. Have you ever tried to see in an old mirror? How well did it work? Ancient mirrors were made of polished bronze or metal, Verse 12 says it is a poor reflection. But when we are standing right in front of someone, we see them clearly.

We can only see the truth about love in part now. It is an ongoing pursuit for the believer (1 Cor. 14:1). But one day we will see the full magnitude of God's love. According to vs. 12 when will that be?

14. Today the word "love" seems to have many meanings. Give an example of two modern uses of the term love.

15. Define the word love as used in verse 8. It is the Greek word Agape.

16. In verse 11 Paul goes over the change that he has experienced. Can you relate to this testimony?

17. When he says "...he spoke like a child", what do you suppose he meant? Then he says, "when I became a man, I gave up childish ways", what is he saying here?

18. Who are we most like when we are responding to others with love?

19. What would this require of us?

20. What are the three qualities that Paul mentions in verse 13? List and define them.

1.

2.

3.

21. Is your faith fully expressing itself in loving others?

22. In what way are you outwardly expressing the hope within you?

This week make it your goal to choose one person to express true *agape*' love to in a new and fresh way; then ask God to show you opportunities and the creativity to do just that.

We never look more like our Father than when we are expressing love.

23. Using 1 Cor. 13:7 how will you choose to apply this to your marriage?

24. Could it be said that true love never gives up?

How will you express this love to your children this week? Go back and read verses 4-8 and be creative.

How will you express this kind of love to a difficult relative?

Try writing this verse out and carrying it with you everywhere you go this week and read it several times each day. At the end of the week jot down some of the benefits from this purposeful exercise.

We must decide if God's word is always correct.

We must decide how we will respond in obedience.