

The Love of God in 1 Corinthians 13

(ADAPTED FROM THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

Love as a Thing to Possess:

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **but do not have love**, (*but am not loving*) I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. {2} If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, **but do not have love**, (*but am not loving*) I am nothing. {3} And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, **but do not have love**, (*but am not loving*) it profits me nothing.

Note that these verses do not say what is italicized in the brackets; the verb *to love* is not used here, but, rather, the verb *to have* love, *to possess love*.

Love Defined:

{4} Love is ¹patient, love is ²kind and is ³not jealous; love does ⁴not brag and is ⁵not arrogant, {5} does ⁶not act unbecomingly; it does ⁷not seek its own, is ⁸not provoked, does ⁹not take into account a wrong suffered, {6} does ¹⁰not rejoice in unrighteousness, but ¹¹rejoices with the truth; {7} ¹²bears all things, ¹³believes all things, ¹⁴hopes all things, ¹⁵endures all things. {8a} ¹⁶Love never fails;

(1 John 4:10 NNAS) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

(1 John 4:16 NNAS) We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Jesus is patient with you, Jesus is kind to you. He does not envy, He does not boast at your expense, He is not proud. He is not rude to you, He is not self-seeking (*but He seeks your highest good*), He is not easily angered with you, He keeps no record of wrongs you have done. Jesus does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. He always protects you, always trusts you, always hopes on your behalf, always perseveres with you. Jesus never fails you.

Galatians 5:22-25 (NASB) But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. {24} Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. {25} If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

The Greatest of these is Love:

{8b}but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. {9} For we know in part and we prophesy in part; {10} but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. {11} When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. {12} For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. {13} But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.