

Love – Part 5: Love Is...

1 Corinthians 13:7

Our dividing the studies between verses 5 and 6 is really arbitrary. Verse 6 continues the thought begun in verse 4.

Passage:

⁷beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

<13:4> Ἡ ἀγάπη μακροθυμεῖ χρηστεύεται ἡ ἀγάπη, οὐ ζηλοῖ, [ἡ ἀγάπη] οὐ περπερεύεται οὐ φυσιοῦται, <13:5> οὐκ ἀσχημονεῖ, οὐ ζητεῖ τὰ ἑαυτῆς, οὐ παροξύνεται, οὐ λογίζεται τὸ κακόν, <13:6> οὐ χαίρει ἐπὶ τῇ ἀδικίᾳ, συγχαίρει δὲ τῇ ἀληθείᾳ· <13:7> πάντα στέγει, πάντα πιστεύει, πάντα ἐλπίζει, πάντα ὑπομένει.

BBE – Love has the power of undergoing all things, having faith in all things, hoping all things.

KJV – Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

NASB – bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

NIV – It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

NKJV – bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

NRSV – It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

RSV – Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Wey – She knows how to be silent. She is full of trust, full of hope, full of patient endurance.

YLT – all things it beareth, all it believeth, all it hopeth, all it endureth.

Phillips – (7) Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything.

Message – (4-7) - Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

Gal. 5:22-26 - ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Break It Down:

Remember that every instance of the word “love” is the Greek word “agape.”

And second, note that while in English love is defined in terms of adjectives, in the Greek, each of the words are verbs. The focus of the passage is about behavior.

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/MAC/sg1867.htm>

Bears all things –

What does this mean to you? _____

4722 στεγο stego {steg'-o} from 4721; TDNT - 7:585,1073; v

AV - can forbear 2, bear 1, suffer 1; 4

1) deck, thatch, to cover

1a) to protect or keep by covering, to preserve

2) to cover over with silence

2a) to keep secret

2b) to hide, conceal

2b1) of the errors and faults of others

3) by covering to keep off something which threatens, to bear up against, hold out against, and so endure, bear, forbear

Verse 7. (12.) Beareth all things] παντα στεγει, This word is also variously interpreted: to *endure*, *bear*, *sustain*, *cover*, *conceal*, *contain*. Bishop Pearce contends that it should be translated *covereth all things*, and produces several plausible reasons for this translation; the most forcible of which is, that the common translation confounds it with *endureth all things*, in the same verse. We well know that it is a grand and distinguishing property of *love* to *cover* and *conceal* the *fault* of another; and it is certainly better to consider the passage in this light than in that which our common version holds out; and this perfectly agrees with what St. Peter says of charity, 1Pe 4:8: *It shall cover the multitude of sins*; but there is not sufficient evidence that the original will fully bear this sense; and perhaps it would be better to take it in the sense of *contain*, *keep in*, as a vessel does liquor; thus Plato compared the souls of foolish men to a *sieve*, and *not able*, stegēin dia apistias te kai lhyhn, *to contain any thing through unfaithfulness and forgetfulness*. See Parkhurst and Wetstein. Some of the *versions* have *stergei*, *loveth*, or is *warmly affectioned* to all things or persons. But the true import must be found either in *cover* or *contain*. *Love conceals* every thing that should be concealed; betrays no secret; *retains* the grace given; and goes on to continual increase. A person under the influence of this love never makes the sins, follies, faults, or imperfections of any man, the subject either of censure or conversation. He *covers* them as far as he *can*; and if alone privy to them, he *retains* the knowledge of them in his own bosom as far as he *ought*.

Beareth all things (παντα στεγει). στεγω is old verb from στεγη, roof, already in 1Co 9:12; 1Th 3:1,5 which see. Love covers, protects, forbears (*suffert*, Vulgate). See 1Pe 4:8 "because love covers a multitude of sins" (οτι αγαπη καλυπτει φηθος αμαρτιων), throws a veil over.

This is a tremendous word...a glorious truth. The word "beareth," although it is used in various shades of meaning in the New Testament, primarily means "to cover with silence," or "to suppress." That's the basic meaning. It doesn't mean that love puts up with anything and gets shoved around because of a lack of dignity. What it means is this: Love, out of regard, respect, and honest concern for the real value of another person, will do everything it can to cover up and suppress the sin of that person. Genuine love is reluctant to drag a scandal in front of anyone. So when Paul says that love "beareth all things," he's not talking about enduring a trial, he's talking about covering the ugliness in someone else's life.

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. (NIV)

Pr 10:12- Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions. (NIV)

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

Your parenting? _____

How would your house be different if this aspect of love reigned? _____

Your church relationships? _____

Your relationships with non-christians? _____

Final quote

Believes all things –

What does this mean to you? _____

4100 pisteuo pisteuo {pist-yoo'-o} from 4102; TDNT - 6:174,849; v

AV - believe 239, commit unto 4, commit to (one's) trust 1,
be committed unto 1, be put in trust with 1,
be commit to one's trust 1, believer 1; 248

1) to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in

1a) of the thing believed

1a1) to credit, have confidence

1b) in a moral or religious reference

1b1) used in the NT of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul

1b2) to trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something: saving faith

1bc) mere acknowledgment of some fact or event: intellectual faith

2) to entrust a thing to one, i.e. his fidelity

2a) to be intrusted with a thing

(13.) Believeth all things] panta pisteuei. Is ever ready to believe the *best* of every person, and will credit no evil of any but on the most positive evidence; gladly receives whatever may tend to the *advantage* of any person whose character may have suffered from obloquy and detraction; or even *justly*, because of his *misconduct*. – Clarke

Believeth all things (παντα πιστευει). Not gullible, but has faith in men. Hopeth all things (παντα ελπizei). Sees the bright side of things.

Love believes the best in someone else. Instead of being suspicious and eager to denounce an offender, love believes the best. Instead of saying, "He probably got exactly what he deserved" or "He's so far gone now, he'll probably never change," love believes the best. Love sees the weakness, throws a mantle of silence over it, and then believes the best. Love doesn't go through life cynical and suspicious--suspecting everybody and everything. Love doesn't automatically jump to the conclusion that when somebody does something wrong it proves that they were rotten to begin with. Love always believes the best.

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

Your parenting? _____

How would your house be different if this aspect of love reigned? _____

Your church relationships? _____

Your relationships with non-christians? _____

Hopes all things –

What does this mean to you? _____

1679 elpizo elpizo {el-pid'-zo} from 1680; TDNT - 2:517,229; v

AV - trust 18, hope 10, hope for 2, things hoped for 1, vr hope 1; 32

1) to hope

1a) in a religious sense, to wait for salvation with joy and full confidence

2) hopefully to trust in

(14.) Hopeth all things.] panta elpizei. When there is no place left for *believing good* of a person, then love comes in with its *hope*, where it could not *work* by its *faith*; and begins immediately to make allowances and excuses, as far as a good conscience can permit; and farther, anticipates the *repentance* of the transgressor, and his restoration to the good opinion of society and his place in the Church of God, from which he had fallen. – Clarke

Does not despair. ἐνδύρεθ ἀλλ θινγς (παντα υπομενει).

1. HOPE'S OBJECT

When you run out of faith, hang on to hope. Hope is the long line, the long cord, that never gets disconnected. As long as the grace of God is operative, human failure is never final. What I always go back to is this: Is anything too hard for God? I think back a few years, to people that we've disciplined in our church because of various sinful situations. At the time, there was a great desire in my own heart, because of love, to throw a mantle over their sin and never talk about it or discuss it with anybody, except with those who were involved in praying for them. And then there was a great desire in my heart to believe that something would change--that they'd come back. And I guess in a couple of cases, now, my faith has gotten a little small. So do you know what I do? I hope. And every once in a while, when the long rope of hope pulls at my heart, I pray for them and keep hoping.

2. HOPE'S OPTIMISM

You see, love is hopelessly optimistic--it never stops hoping. Love says, "God is still God and He can do it, so that's what I have to hope in." Love refuses to take failure as final. God wouldn't accept it from Israel, Jesus wouldn't accept it from Peter, and Paul wouldn't accept it from the Corinthians. Many a loving wife has held on to a husband with nothing but that rope of hope. Many a loving parent has held on to a wayward child, and many a loving friend has held on to a fallen brother...just holding on to hope.

3. HOPE'S OBSTACLE

When all your faith gets clouded in, you have to hold on to hope. Don't give up on hope--love doesn't. You might say, "Well, I've lost faith in them totally. They're completely lost. They'll never come back. There's no hope left. I give up." Well, love doesn't give up on hope. That would be like arriving in a village beneath the Matterhorn in Switzerland on a foggy day, and having people say, "You've got to see the Matterhorn on a sunny day. It's the most beautiful sight you've ever seen." Now, if you sat on the ground and said, "Liars, there's no Matterhorn. I'm right here, and I can see that there's no Matterhorn," you would be wrong, wouldn't you? But in that foggy moment, you thought you made a clear judgment. Love doesn't do that. When faith gets clogged up and fogged in, love still hangs on to hope. When doubt and despair steal faith, love still has hope.

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

Your parenting? _____

How would your house be different if this aspect of love reigned? _____

Your church relationships? _____

Your relationships with non-christians? _____

Endures all things –

What does this mean to you? _____

5278 upomēno hupomēno {hoop-om-en'-o} from 5259 and 3306; TDNT - 4:581,581; v

AV - endure 11, take patiently 2, tarry behind 1, abide 1, patient 1, suffer 1; 17

1) to remain

1a) to tarry behind

2) to remain i.e. abide, not recede or flee

2a) to preserve: under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith in Christ

2b) to endure, bear bravely and calmly: ill treatments

(15.) Endureth all things.] panta upomenei. Bears up under all persecutions and mal-treatment from open enemies and professed friends; bears adversities with an even mind, as it submits with perfect resignation to every dispensation of the providence of God; and never says of any trial, affliction, or insult, *this cannot be endured*. – Clarke

Perseveres. Carries on like a stout-hearted soldier. If one knows Sir Joshua Reynolds's beautiful painting of the Seven Virtues (the four cardinal virtues of the Stoics--temperance, prudence, fortitude, justice--and the three Christian graces--faith, hope, love), he will find them all exemplified here as marks of love (the queen of them all).

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Putting the Four Together – “Multiple Choice Marriage”

(Looking at Andy Stanley's treatment of these four verses.)

Up to verse 7, we could probably all agree about the importance and appropriateness of each of the characteristics of love.

Paul gives us one idea here with these four verbs, that, while we might think it sounds like bad advice, it is core to being in love. It is one of the most important habits or practices in a romantic love relationship.

“Believes all things” – What if there is evidence to the contrary? Doesn’t that sound like a codependent relationship?

In every relationship at some point along the way, there is a gap between our expectations and how people behave.

Examples: Showing up on time, doing chores, never doing something again...

The expectations are usually set by parents, upbringing, culture.

In every one of these gaps, we either choose to believe the best, or we assume the worst. It’s easier to see what your spouse does, than what you do.

Depending on what we put in there, we go to one of two places in our minds.

If we believe the best, we think:

“Well, she’s been real busy, she’s done so much, she’s got so much going on, it’s not a problem. I’m sure she’ll be here soon, and I’m sure there’s a good reason why she’s late.”

There was a lot going on this month, I’m sure he just doesn’t know.

We develop an attitude when there’s a gap. It begins in our mind, and then it comes out of our mouth.

There are two things that determine what we put in that gap. One is what we see, the other is who we are.

“I see he/she isn’t here yet.” + Your mother and father and previous relationships taught you affected (or infected) your heart.

Which way do you go? As soon as you get the text, phone call, etc., which way do you go?

If we believe the worst, we think:

“She never pays attention to her watch, she’s probably talking to her sister again, she’s probably not paying attention again, ...”

He’s just no good with money, he’s never been good with money, his dad was no good with money, his granddad was no good with money. I have to do everything around here, and when he gets home...”

People who stay in love learn to think the best. It’s not that there is no gap. They are generous in their explanation.

The One Thing You Need to Know, Marcus Buckingham – premise of the book is that in any discipline, there is only one thing you really need to know to be successful:

A group of researchers who wanted to study successful relationships. They found a group who were happy, successful, and had been together for over 10 years. In the group of unsuccessful marriages, they knew that in unhappy couples there was a disconnect about what the other person was like. They didn’t understand what the other person was like. So they assumed that in the successful marriages, there would be a great understanding about what the other person was like. They expected to find very realistic expectations.

They found the exact opposite. They had very unrealistic view of each other. The spouses would rate the other higher in every single category than the individuals did. And vice versa. It was absolutely consistent. LOVE IS BLIND!!!!

Here are some of the conclusions:

- A spouse’s positive illusion creates an upward spiral of love. (This is exactly what you did when you were dating.) The illusion created a conviction. The conviction created a security. Security fostered intimacy. And intimacy fostered love.
- A husband or wife who assumes that their spouse possesses strengths that they don’t have will have a strong marriage. Advice: Find the most generous explanation for each others’ behavior and then believe it. “She’s not impatient, she’s just intense. He’s not insensitive, he’s just focused.”

What you put in the gap is your decision. Happy marriages choose to have generous explanations.

Do you quickly go negative, or do you assume the best? That’s your decision. I’m sure there’s a story, but where do you go?

Listen again to 1 Cor. 13:7 again:

You’ve grown so hopelessly apart and you’ll never have the passion again. You’re against divorce and you’ve decided that you’re going to gut it out, but it isn’t fun. And you don’t like it when the phone rings and it’s her, or the garage door opens and it’s him. It’s become a cycle of negativity. It feeds on itself. You get to be right nearly all of the time. In fact, you like it when your spouse messes up because it gives you another chance to be right. You start celebrating it. “See there, I told you he would be late.” You get into a cycle. You look forward to it. You love to discover that they’re wrong. They love to discover you are wrong. You think you’re winning arguments, but you are

losing the most important relationship in your life. And it's your choice every single time what you put in the gap.

"Love protects" – Love protects the integrity of the relationship. I'm not looking to put something in the negative column. I'm looking to put something in the positive column. I'm looking for a way to keep love alive.

"Always trusts" – Love looks for a generous explanation.

"Always hopes" – Love assumes there's a good explanation.

"Always perseveres" – Love always looks for the good.

Have you and your spouse gotten into a cycle? When you choose to assume the worst, even if there's a history to back it up, you have contributed to the demise of the relationship. Every time, even when it seems to be justified, that you go negative in your attitude, tone, expression, response, you contribute to the demise of your love relationship. Even when it is justified.

The last thing your spouse wants to do is to disappoint you. No one wants to disappoint the one they love. Whenever you communicate disappointment, no matter what you do, you will never measure up. Every time you overtly or covertly communicate that, you push them further and further away.

"If you want to stop disappointing me, then all you have to do is get these two things right. Then I'll be fine."

Performance is not how you communicate acceptance in a relationship.

Fill the gap with "believe the best." And choose to communicate that. It creates margin in the relationship.

If you consistently communicate disappointment, they are scared of you. No one wants to feel like they disappoint someone they love.

Or you can communicate: "I trust you." I accept you. You have not disappointed me.

"Honey, I am running late." "That's OK. You just take your time. I'll be here waiting."

"Honey I forgot to pay this bill." "That's OK. We'll figure it out."

Instead of using the gap to make a point and drive you further from me, I'm going to use the gap to bring you closer to me. I love you anyway.

It's not that you don't confront the realities of the relationship. It's not that you don't have difficult conversations. But after the conversations, the next time there's a gap, you still have a choice to make, and you will choose to believe the best or assume the worst. But relationships that last and thrive are the ones who choose to believe the best.

Our hearts are drawn toward environments of acceptance. This is an opportunity to draw your partner's heart in your direction. (Just like you did when you were dating.)

If they come home and they know that they do not measure up, their heart will not come home with them. If I know that I will come home into a conversation where what is communicated to me is you disappointed me again, you didn't measure up again, you didn't get it right again, try harder next time, I am right, I may be there with my body, but I will not be there with my heart, because my heart is drawn toward environments and relationships of acceptance.

Every time there is a gap, you make a decision: "Will I accept or will I reject?" Every single time.

Couples that stay together have learned that there will be gaps, but what will I put in the gap? Will I be willing to 1 Cor. 13:7? Will I trust you, until there is absolutely no way for me to trust you? I'm hoping there's a good reason. I will not reject you, I will not punish you.

What if you just followed the golden rule?

Happy couples have learned to believe the best.

You have an opportunity to remodel your relationships. There may be nothing that speaks louder to our culture than our marriage relationships.

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

How would your marriage be different if this aspect of love reigned? _____

It's not because we're great, it's not because we're smart, it's because of our heavenly father and what He's done for us and in us through His Son.

Conclusion:

Make love a verb.

Jesus is the model for love.

What would you say is the core message of today's passage (13:6)?

Is there any practical lesson you can walk away with from today's passage?

Selflessness could very well be considered the key to love as described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. List the fifteen qualities of love from verses 4-7, and then determine how selflessness relates to each one.