

AGAINST THE GRAIN 1 Corinthians 13:7

Christianity cuts against the grain: it demands the _____--that we act just like God and we are not God!

I. THE MEANING OF "ALL"

- A. The last 4 verbs used to describe *agape* are all _____ and the 4 are linked with the word "all"
- 1) In the original language this verse is 8 words: bears_____, believes_____, hopes_____, endures_____
 - 2) There is no _____ in which God-like love does not call us to bear, believe, hope and endure
- B. The authors of the most devastating critiques of _____ have taken issue with ideas in this verse
- 1) Marx knew that if men were taught the truths in this verse they would never join his _____
 - 2) Nietzsche believed that the ideas in this verse would keep men in the _____—docile and mediocre
 - 3) These philosophers illustrate that it is easy to _____ this elegant and beautiful verse
- C. Are we literally to bear ALL things? Believe ALL things? Hope ALL things? Endure ALL things?
- 1) Like statements in vv. 1-3, we are again dealing with thoughts that must _____ be pressed literally
 - 2) The repetition of ALL in this verse is a matter of hyperbole: it makes a point by _____
 - 3) *Agape* is God-like love: the way that we distinguish between when we ought to bear and believe and hope and endure and when we should not is by looking to our _____ to see how He loves us

II. THE MEANING OF EACH PHRASE

A. Love _____ All Things

In the original language, the word translated "bears" come from a root that means _____ or covering

- 1) Love _____ as much as possible: love keeps confidences and puts the best face on actions but love must not make the mistake of protecting a _____ from paying the penalty for his crimes
- 2) Love _____ in all circumstances, no matter how heavy the load, like a mother bearing her baby

B. Love _____ All Things

- 1) *Agape* gives the benefit of the doubt: it always puts the best _____ on a person's actions
 - a) We often put the worst possible face on another's actions and refuse to allow them to _____ us
 - b) Job's friends condemned him as a _____ w/out evidence even when he sought to correct them
- 2) Even when we know another has sinned, we still believe they will repent, be restored and _____

C. Love _____ All Things

- 1) NT hope is always rooted in _____ Himself, a complete confidence in what He has promised to do
- 2) When we see problems in a believer's life, we have still hope that God will _____ and teach him
- 3) What of someone who ISN'T saved? Love never quits hoping that God will _____ that loved one

D. Love _____ All Things

- 1) "Endures" comes from 2 roots and means to remain _____, like carrying a load mile after mile
- 2) This word was used of _____ holding a position on the battlefield, however the enemy attacked
- 3) "Endure" has the idea of bearing a burden _____ after day, _____ after month, _____ after year.