

The One Essential

1 Corinthians 13; Coast School of Theology; Pastor Earl Miles; 1-5-2020

Love in 1 Corinthians 13 is to have a heart to graciously lay down one's life for the glory of God and the good of others. Or simply, it is a love for God that produces love for men.

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. – 1 John 3:16

Love begins in the heart. (1-3)

Laying down your life with heart! Love is ...

- More than Speaking or Performance
- More than Spiritual Gifts or Productivity
- More than Sacrifice or Provision

Problem: heartlessness

Love is desire for the glory of God and the good of others that results in doing.

– 1 John 4:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 1:22; Matthew 22:35-40

Be concerned about your heart! Focus on God's love for you in Christ!

Love is gracious and practical. (4-8a)

Laying down your life in the everyday mundane existence of life (ordinary, dull, uninteresting, unexciting).

- Patient** = long suffering

That a Christian spirit disposes persons meekly to bear ill received from others. – Jonathan Edwards

- Kind** = treating others as you would want to be treated

That a Christian spirit disposes persons freely to do good to others. – Jonathan Edwards

- Not jealous** = not grasping and possessive

A truly Christian spirit is opposite to an envious spirit: a spirit of opposition to the happiness of others compared to their own. – Jonathan Edwards

- Not bragging** = not outwardly proud
- Not arrogant** = not inwardly proud

- **Doesn't act unbecomingly** = follows appropriate and customary behaviors in order not to offend unnecessarily

A Christian spirit is a humble spirit. – Jonathan Edwards

- **Does not seek its own** = is not selfish

A Christian spirit is opposite of a selfish spirit. – Jonathan Edwards

- **Isn't provoked** = easily angered

A Christian spirit is contrary to an angry or wrathful disposition. – Jonathan Edwards

- **Does not take into account a wrong suffered** = ready to forgive [thinks no evil]

A Christian spirit is contrary to a censorious spirit or, in other words, it is contrary to a disposition uncharitably to judge others. – Jonathan Edwards

- **Does not rejoice in unrighteousness** = hates evil
- **Rejoices with the truth** = loves what is right and good

All true Christian grace tends to holy practice. – Jonathan Edwards

- **Bears, believes, hopes, endures, never fails** = it is not changed by circumstances

A spirit for Christ's sake to undergo all sufferings to which they may be exposed in the way of their duty. – Jonathan Edwards

True Christian grace is that which nothing that opposes it can ever overthrow. – Jonathan Edwards

Love is doing good for others out of a heart for God's glory and others' good. – 1 John 3:17-18
 Love seeks the good of another even enemies and even if it gains nothing in return. – Luke 6:35
 Love is desire plus doing in obedience to the commands of God who is love. – 2 John 1:6

Love is the one thing that will last forever. (8b-13)

Laying down your life is forever.

Love is rooted in faith. (13)

Love is desire plus doing in response to God's love for us in Christ. – 1 John 4:19
 Love is valuing someone or something highly. – Matthew 10:37; John 21:15
 Love is the fruit of the Spirit of God in His people. - Galatians 5:6, 22-23; 1 John 4:16-19;
 Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17; Luke 11:13