

**I. Introduction.**

**II. Love serves. v. 11**

- A. Don't be spiritually lazy. v. 11a Pr. 18:9 6:6,9 26:13-16 Mt. 25:26f Rev. 3:15-16 2:4f Gal. 6:9 Rev. 2:4-5 Ps. 90:12
- B. Be fervent in spirit. Acts 18:25 Mark 8:34-35 I Co. 9:25-27 II Tim. 1:6 II Pe. 1:13
- C. Serve the Lord. II Co. 5:14 Ps. 116:12 I Co. 10:31
  - 1. This motive will end complacency and stir up your zeal.
  - 2. Serve the Lord by loving and serving His people. Acts 20:19 Ga. 5:13 Phil. 2:22
  - 3. Are you eager to serve wherever you are needed? Ecc. 9:10
  - 4. It is a privilege to serve the Lord. Ps. 116:12
  - 5. God richly rewards those who faithfully serve Him. Gal. 6:9 Mt. 25:23 Heb. 6:10
- D. Jesus lovingly and passionately served the Father and us. Mt. 20:28 John 13:5ff 2:17 Phil. 2:5ff Isa. 53

**III. Love endures. v. 12** I Co. 13:6-7 II Ti. 2:10

- A. Don't let tribulation thwart your love. 8:35 II Co. 8:2 5:7 I Pe. 4:12
- B. Persevere through hope and prayer. Col. 4:2-3 Acts 2:42 1:14
- C. Jesus endured through overwhelming tribulation. He. 12:1ff

**IV. Love gives (shares). v. 13a** I John 3:17

- A. Sacrificial generosity to those in need was a hallmark of the early church. 15:26-27 II Co. 8-9 Acts 2:44-45 4:32 I Ti. 6:17ff Phil. 1:5 4:15 Mt. 25:34-40 Ga. 6:6 He. 13:16
- B. Share one another's burdens. Gal. 6:2,10
  - 1. Lovingly meet each other's material needs. I Jo. 3:17 4:20 Js. 2:14f II Co. 8:3-5
  - 2. Give wisely. I Ti. 5:4,8 Gal. 6:10 II Th. 3:10-12 Pr. 16:26 I Th. 4:11
  - 3. Also care about the emotional and spiritual needs of your brethren. Mic. 6:8 Gal. 6:1 Ro. 15:14 Eph. 4:29 Pr. 25:11
  - 4. Giving of your time and emotions can be harder than giving money. Phil. 2:20-21
- C. Are you sharing in the needs of your brethren?
- D. Jesus has met our greatest need by giving us the greatest gift. II Co. 8:9 John 3:16

**V. Love welcomes. v. 13b** Heb. 13:2 I Pe. 4:9 III Jo. 1:5-8 II Ti. 1:16 Lu. 14:12-14

- A. Hospitality involves more than having your friends over for an occasional meal.
  - 1. Hospitality literally means the *love of strangers*. Luke 14:12-14
  - 2. Hospitality has varied expressions. 16:5,23 Acts 2:46 20:11 16:15 21:8 5:42 Jude 12 III Jo. 5-8 Phm. 22 Acts 5:42 I Co. 16:19 Co. 4:15 Phm. 5
  - 3. Hospitality is sharing your home and your life.

4. Showing concern for strangers has Old Testament roots. Ge. 18:2f 19:1ff He. 13:2 Dt. 10:19 Ex. 22:21 23:9
5. Hospitality was an important characteristic of the early church. I Ti. 3:3 Titus 1:8 Acts 2:42 I Co. 11:20ff
6. Should you welcome every stranger into your home? 16:1-2 II Th. 3:6f II Jo 10ff

**B. Why is hospitality so important?**

1. Hospitality meets practical needs. Job 31:32
2. Hospitality builds love and unity in the church family. Heb. 13:1-2
3. Hospitality can be an effective means of evangelism.

**C. Hospitality is not merely to be practiced, it is to be pursued.**

**D. What hinders us from pursuing hospitality? I Pet. 4:9 Js. 2:1ff  
Pride, fear, selfishness, prejudice.**

**E. Do you have a vision for pursuing hospitality?**

**F. Hospitality is not just an action. It involves an attitude. 15:7**

**G. Hospitality has great benefits. Mt. 25:35,40 10:11 Heb. 13:1-2 6:10**

**VI. Concluding applications: How do we put this love into action? Js. 1:22**

**Discussion questions**

1. What are some causes of spiritual lethargy? v. 11a
2. How can you grow in spiritual fervency? v. 11b
3. How are you presently serving the Lord? v. 11c
4. What was the giving in the early church like? v. 13a
5. What kinds of needs should you be seeking to meet in the church family? v. 13a
6. What does “hospitality” mean? v. 13b
7. What are some expressions of hospitality? v. 13b
8. Why is hospitality important? v. 13b
9. Whom do you know who excels in hospitality? v. 13b
10. What do you plan to do to “pursue” hospitality? v. 13b
11. How is love in each of these areas exemplified in Christ?