

HOW CAN I LIVE THE LIFE I WANT?  
“The Greatest Gift”

6/27/10

I Cor. 13:1-13

**“So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts.”**

**“But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.”**

1. LOVE IS NEVER *CONDITIONAL*: (vv. 1-3)

A. LOVE IS GREATER THAN *SPEAKING* ABILITY: (v. 1)

**“If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”**

B. LOVE IS MORE *SUFFICIENT* THAN PROPHECY, KNOWLEDGE OR FAITH: (v. 2)

**“If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. (v. 2)**

C. LOVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN *SELF-SACRIFICE*: (v. 3)

**“If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it, but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.” (v. 3)**

2. LOVE IS TO BE *CHRISTLIKE*: (vv. 4-6)

A. Love is Patient: (v. 4a)

**“Love is patient...”**

B. Love is Kind: (v. 4b)

**“Love is kind...”**

C. Love Does Not Envy: (v. 4c)

**“Love is not jealous...”**

**D. Love Does Not Brag: (v. 4d)**

**“Love is not boastful...”**

**E. Love is Not Full of Pride: (v. 4e)**

**“Love is not proud...”**

**F. Love is Not Rude: (v. 4f)**

**“Love is not rude...”**

**G. Love Does Not Insist Upon its Rights: (v. 5a)**

**“It does not demand its own way.”**

**G. Love is Not Irritable: (v. 5b)**

**“It is not irritable...”**

**G. Love Does Not Keep Records of Wrongs: (v. 5c)**

**“It keeps no record of wrong...”**

**G. Love Finds No Joy in Evil of Any Kind: (v. 6)**

**“It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.”**

**3. LOVE IS THE MOST *COMPREHENSIVE*: (v. 7)**

**“Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”**

**A. Love Can Cover Anything.**

**“Love never gives up...”**

**B. Love is Trustworthy.**

**“Love never loses faith...”**

**C. Love Produces Hope.**

**“Love is always hopeful...”**

**D. Love Endures.**

**“Love endures through every circumstance.”**

**4. LOVE IS THE MOST *COMPLETE*: (v. 8-13)**

**“Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages (different word than in v. 1) (glossa verses dialektos) and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when full understanding comes, these partial things will become useless.**

**When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.” (vv. 8-12)**

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**Three things will last forever---faith, hope, and love---and the greatest of these is love.”**