

If We Love, Proper Actions Will Follow

Introduction

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

1. **Vigilance, Stability, Courage, Strength, with whole passage tempered and perfected by LOVE.**
2. **It is usually no trouble to get people to obey the gospel IF they LOVE the Lord and His truth**

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:41 Then those who **gladly received his word** were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

3. **It's also no trouble to get members to study, pray, attend, be on time, give, teach, IF they LOVE**

2 Corinthians 8:3-5 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were **freely willing**, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but **they first gave themselves to the Lord**, and then to us by the will of God.

4. **Definition of Love? That attitude of mind which leads one to do good for one who is the object of the love**

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Description of the Love Taught in God's Word

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

1. Verse 4: **Suffers Long and Is Kind:**

A. **Love is patient with others.**

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

B. **With gentleness and tenderness, love looks for a way to help.**

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2. Verse 4: **Love Does Not Envy:**

A. **Love is not jealous at the success or good fortune of others.** **Genesis 4:3-5, 8**

3. Verse 4: **Love Does Not Parade Itself; Is Not Puffed Up:**

A. **Love is not anxious to impress; Makes no parade.**

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

B. **Love is not boastful, inflated with pride.** **Romans 12:3**

4. Verse 5: **Love Doth Not Behave Rudely:**

A. **Though we may have strong feelings toward someone.**

1 Peter 3:8-9 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; **love as brothers**, be **tenderhearted**, be **courteous**; **not returning evil for evil** or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

B. **If I love I'm not rude, ill-mannered, insolent.**

2 Timothy 2:24-25 And a servant of the Lord **must not quarrel but be gentle to all**, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

5. Verse 5: **Love Does Not Seek its Own:**

A. **Love is not selfish, does not insist on own way/rights; But willing to deny self for interest of others.**

1 Corinthians 10:24 Let **no one seek his own**, but each one the other's well-being.

B. **We have the perfect example of this as we look to our blessed Savior.**

Matthew 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

6. Verse 5: Love Is Not Provoked:

- A. One who loves is not irritable/touchy; Quick to take offense.**

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

- B. Love is mild tempered.**

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

7. Verse 5: Love Thinks No Evil:

- A. One who loves does not let his mind retain wrong thoughts; He quickly changes to better thoughts.**

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.

- B. Love does not keep record of wrongs that others have done to us.**

Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

8. Verse 6: Love Does Not Rejoice in Iniquity:

- A. It takes no pleasure in the sins and wrongs of others; When someone falls, love does not gloat over this. Love is not glad, but sorry for them. Love tries to restore, not cast away.**

9. Verse 6: Love Rejoices in the Truth:

- A. One is glad when truth prevails in one's life and in the lives of others.**

2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

3 John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

10. Verse 7: Love Bears All Things:

- A. One who loves works hard to overlook the faults of others, and is slow to expose them (doesn't mean bid God speed to error, but rather as Paul expressed in the Galatian letter.**

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

11. Verse 7: Love Believes All Things:

- A. One wants to believe the best about everyone and everything; Not skeptical of all. Doesn't surmise evil.**

1 Timothy 6:3-4 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,

12. Verse 7: Love Hopes All Things, Endures All Things:

- A. Is confident, Firm. Is patient toward others.**

13. Verse 8: Love Never Fails:

A. Never comes to an end. Therefore knowing this we understand:

1) The Lord will not fail us.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

2) We will not fail Him because we also understand that He has a purpose for us.

3) We will not fail our brethren by not encouraging them.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

**B. All people love something, but most have the wrong object.
2 Timothy 3:2-4**

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world....

C. The proper object of our love should be the love of the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:10

1 Peter 1:22

D. It is possible to lose the right love.

To the church at Ephesus:

Revelation 2:4 "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Conclusion

- 1. We have the Holy Spirit in His Word working to provide sound doctrine and love, to make the church and the individual what God wants us to be.**
- 2. So be alert, be firm, be mature, be strengthened, and be loving -- These are principles for a sound life.**
- 3. Could it be that love will prompt someone to serve God now?**

Revelation 3:20-22 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

