

## The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 54, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13, "Love is the Answer, Part 7"

- ✍ We're nearing the end of our study on love, and Paul concludes his description of love with some summative statements: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4-7.
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1. How many of you here have protection plan in place? Insurance, fire alarms, theft alarms? Today, I want to sell you on a protection plan that beats all the rest hands down love's protection plan. Let's not forget that as we make a study of love we are also simultaneously making a study of God for "God is love." What is true about love is also true about God, every characteristic! Including the fact that God always protects.
  - ✓ Our English has difficulty with this first summative statement because no single word encompasses what's being said here. "bears all things" basically the same as "love endures all things" at the end of the description here. "covers" means is closer but is still wanting. The noun alternative for the Greek verb Paul is using is the Greek word for roof or shelter. "bears all things" like a good roof under a heavy deluge or snow. "covers" so that nothing penetrates to those under its shelter or protection. The best for our understanding is to say, "love protects us or shelters us."
2. We are fearful creatures, and we have good reasons to be, we are not large or strong, not fast, aren't armored and do not have formidable teeth. Fear is not optional for us; our only option is what we fear.
  - ✓ How to be Sane 101: Luke 12:4-5.
    - 1) Cannot fear God and man at the same time.
    - 2) To not fear God is insane!
    - 3) The fear of God does away with all other fears.
  - ✓ Let's hear it from a little bit different angle: 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:16 and 4:18. When we fear and stand in awe of God there is nothing else to fear because God who is love is our shelter and protection. Psalm 91:1-5, what God does, love does. On the other hand, David carried a sword and took all precautions, but his trust was in the Lord. Buy your protection plans, buckle up your kids, lock your doors, but if the Lord doesn't protect you there is no protection. Let nothing distract or replace your confidence in His love, it bears all things.
3. We are going to be taking these next two summative statements about love together.
  - ✓ Love believes and hopes all things. "Believes" and "hopes" go together because you can't believe without hope and there is no hope without believing. Don't read love believes and hopes all things as love is taken in or is gullible or is uninformed about human nature, love is well informed. Love gives the benefit of the doubt, love opts for the best possible explanation, love is not cynical or suspicious and does not assume the worst. Love knows quite well that to believe and hope for the best means you will eventually get burned, love doesn't care! Love would rather be occasionally burned than to be consistently cynical!
  - ✓ Knowing human nature quite well, love stretches out its arms and says, "crucify me." That's the way love acts! In our mindset, the only way to prosper and be rewarded is to look out for number one. Did Jesus not prosper? Was He not rewarded? There are a lot of people who seem like a hopeless cause. Love is not uninformed about human nature, places no confidence in Human nature whatsoever, love's confidence, belief and hope is in the power of God! Rationally speaking there are people who are beyond hope and who are lost causes. Love doesn't hope in people, love hopes in God who is able to change anyone. Loves always believes and holds out hope and writes no one off.

**Love knows the final word isn't man's failure but God's grace!! Love keeps on praying, working, giving, trusting and believing because God is with us!**

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