A More Excellent Way

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Many miraculous powers were distributed among brethren in the first century. However, Paul teaches that there is a power or trait superior to all of these spectacular gifts. It is love (1 Cor. 12:31). Love is the most excellent way (1 Cor. 13:4-8), because:

- **Love suffereth long**. Love makes us patient with others as God is with us. One who loves is slow to bitterness or anger when wronged.
- **Love is kind**. There is a sweetness to the spirit of the loving person. Graciousness and gentleness in word and deed come of love.
- **Love envieth not**. A loving person neither desires nor begrudges what others have. Love makes us rejoice in good fortune for others.
- **Love vaunteth not itself**. The braggart advertises self-love. Christian love is humble, self- effacing.
- **Love is not puffed up**. Even the arrogant despise conceit and arrogance in others. A loving person doesn't throw his weight around.
- **Love doth not behave itself unseemly**. Love for others keeps us from being rude and crude. Tasteful words and deeds demonstrate love.
- **Love seeketh not its own**. Love doesn't let us dwell only on our rights and what people owe us. A person who is always insisting on his own way and who is always complaining of mistreatment is simply deficient in love.
- **Love is not provoked**. The person who is irritable and has a hair-trigger temper has a love problem. We may call such a person moody; Paul calls him or her unloving.
- **Love taketh not account of evil**. When love controls, we don't store up wrongs suffered.
- **Love rejoiceth not in unrighteousness**. When we love, we mourn at ill reports of others.
- **Love rejoiceth with the truth**. Some don't want the Truth to prevail, or they don't want to hear the Truth. Love makes us glad when Truth is proclaimed and especially when it triumphs.
- **Love beareth, believeth, hopeth, endureth all things**. Love causes us to keep going in face of insult, to trust in face of doubt, to hope though discouraged, and to persevere triumphantly whatever may come.

[Note: I wrote this article for and was published in *The Edifier,* weekly bulletin of Pearl Street Church of Christ, Denton, TX, March 19, 1987, of which I was editor.]

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