

The Greatest of These Is Love

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

Introduction:

1. In this verse three important Bible subjects are listed: faith, hope, and love.
2. Faith is important because we cannot please God without it (Hebrews 11:6).
3. Hope is important because we are saved by it (Romans 8:24).
4. Even though faith and hope are extremely important, love is the greatest.
5. In our lesson we are pointing out 7 reasons why love is so great.

Discussion:

I. FIRST, JESUS EMPHASIZED LOVE IN HIS TEACHING

A. According to Jesus,:

1. the first and second commandments involve love (Matthew 22:35-40)
2. His new commandment involves love (John 13:34)
3. His followers are to be recognized by their love for one other (John 13:35).

B. The Christians in Jerusalem illustrate what is involved in practicing the Lord's teaching about loving God and each other (Acts 2:41-47).

II. SECOND, LOVE IS A COMPREHENSIVE COMMAND (Romans 13:8-10)

III. THIRD, LOVE NEVER FAILS (1 Corinthians 13:8)

IV. FOURTH, LOVE IS THE FIRST OF 9 CHARACTERISTICS THAT MAKE UP THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22-23)

V. FIFTH, LOVE IS "*THE BOND OF PERFECTNESS*" (Colossians 3:12-14)

VI. SIXTH, LOVE IS THE LAST OF 7 CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE KNOWN AS "*THE CHRISTIAN GRACES*" (2 Peter 1:5-7)

VII. SEVENTH, LOVE IS "*OF GOD*" AND "*GOD IS LOVE*" (1 John 4:7-8)

Conclusion:

1. The Bible states that love is the greatest, and it shows why this is the case.
2. We have considered 7 of the many reasons why love is so great.
3. Because love is the greatest, we must fulfill our responsibilities that relate to it -- we will consider 7 of them this evening, Lord willing.