

## People of Love

### (Lesson 2)

#### Introduction:

1. The Lord's followers are to be:
  - a. "people of faith" (Hebrews 11:6)
  - b. "people of hope" (1 Peter 1:3)
  - c. "people of love" (John 13:34-35).
2. To be "people of love" we must practice the admonition given in 1 Corinthians 16:14 [*"Let all your things be done with 'charity' (love)"*].
3. In this lesson we are studying 1 Corinthians 13, "the love chapter of the Bible."
4. This chapter presents 3 reasons why everything must be done with love.

#### Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-3) EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE WITH LOVE BECAUSE WE ARE NOTHING WITHOUT IT
  - A. (vs.1-2) This point is made in reference to spiritual gifts.
  - B. (vs.3) This point is also made in reference to benevolence and acts of sacrifice.
  - C. A careful study of 1 Corinthians shows that love was lacking or missing in things done by the Christians in Corinth -- they were not being "people of love."
- II. (vs.4-7) EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE WITH LOVE BECAUSE OF HOW IT BEHAVES
  - A. 15 characteristics of love are listed, including 8 negative and 7 positive.
  - B. Negatively, love:
    1. does not envy (is not jealous)
    2. does not vaunt itself (doesn't brag or boast)
    3. is not puffed up (arrogant)
    4. does not behave itself unseemly (act in a way unbecoming of a child of God)
    5. does not seek its own (have to have its own way)
    6. is not easily provoked
    7. does not think evil (does not take into account a wrong suffered)
    8. does not rejoice in iniquity (unrighteousness).
  - C. "People of love" do not possess these characteristics.
  - D. Positively, love:
    1. suffers long (is patient)
    2. is kind
    3. rejoices in the truth
    4. bears all things
    5. believes all things
    6. hopes all things
    7. endures all things.
  - E. "People of love" do possess these characteristics.
- III. (vs.8-13) EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE WITH LOVE BECAUSE IT IS EVERLASTING
  - A. Love never fails, even though spiritual gifts failed, ceased, and vanished away.
  - B. The Lord never intended for spiritual gifts to last forever -- they were temporary.
  - C. However, He intended for love to last forever.
  - D. One day, faith will become sight and hope will become a reality, but love will continue.