

“A More Excellent Way”

Lesson 7: Love Never Fails (1 Corinthians 13:8)

Intro:

1. It is one thing to claim that we are loving, it is yet another to trust in love during every circumstance.
2. At times we have decided that love is only beneficial and useful in certain circumstances. (Luke 6:27-33)
3. Part of strengthening our family relationships in love is trusting that love to lead us to what is right and good in every moment.
4. God has declared that “love never fails.” The question is, “do I believe it?”

I. Love never fails in building friendships.

1. A friend “loveth at all times.” (Proverb 17:17)
 - a. The Bible declares that friendship can be stronger than family. There are many things that may make it difficult to express the kind of love toward our physical families that we would like. Even simple geographical problems can make it difficult.
 - b. Our friends may be the strongest form of family we have.
 - c. If that be true, we must be cautious as to whom we choose as our friends. (Galatians 6:10)
2. Within friendships, love never fails when...
 - a. Resolving challenges (Proverb 17:9)
 - b. Knowing when to give space (Proverb 25:17)
 - c. Avoiding the temptation to meddle (Proverb 26:17)
 - d. Acting with sincerity (Proverb 27:14)

II. “For we know in part” (1 Corinthians 13:9)

1. Prophecies, tongues, and knowledge only gives a partial view of what is needful.
2. Love will not fail to guide us into the fullness of what we need in every relationship.
3. We may not always like what we know and hear concerning our family but love must not cease.
4. Love is reliable when...
 - a. Leading an erring brother away from sin. (Galatians 6:1)
 - (1) Even when the sins are deplorable. (Acts 9:10-17)
 - (2) Even when we believe they are unworthy of repentance. (Jonah 4:1-2)
 - b. When sharing the message of the Gospel. (1 John 5:3)
 - (1) "Fully preach the gospel" (Romans 15:19)
 - (2) "Gladly receive" (Acts 2:41)
 - (3) Trusting in the purity, simplicity, and effectiveness of the message. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

Conclusion:

1. Do you and I trust love?
2. Love is the great equalizer in difficult times.
3. We cannot say it any better than the apostle Paul, "love never fails!"