

# A More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

An oval-shaped photograph showing an elderly couple from behind, embracing each other in a field. The woman has white hair and is wearing a light-colored jacket. The man has white hair and is wearing a light-colored shirt. They are standing in a grassy field with trees in the background.

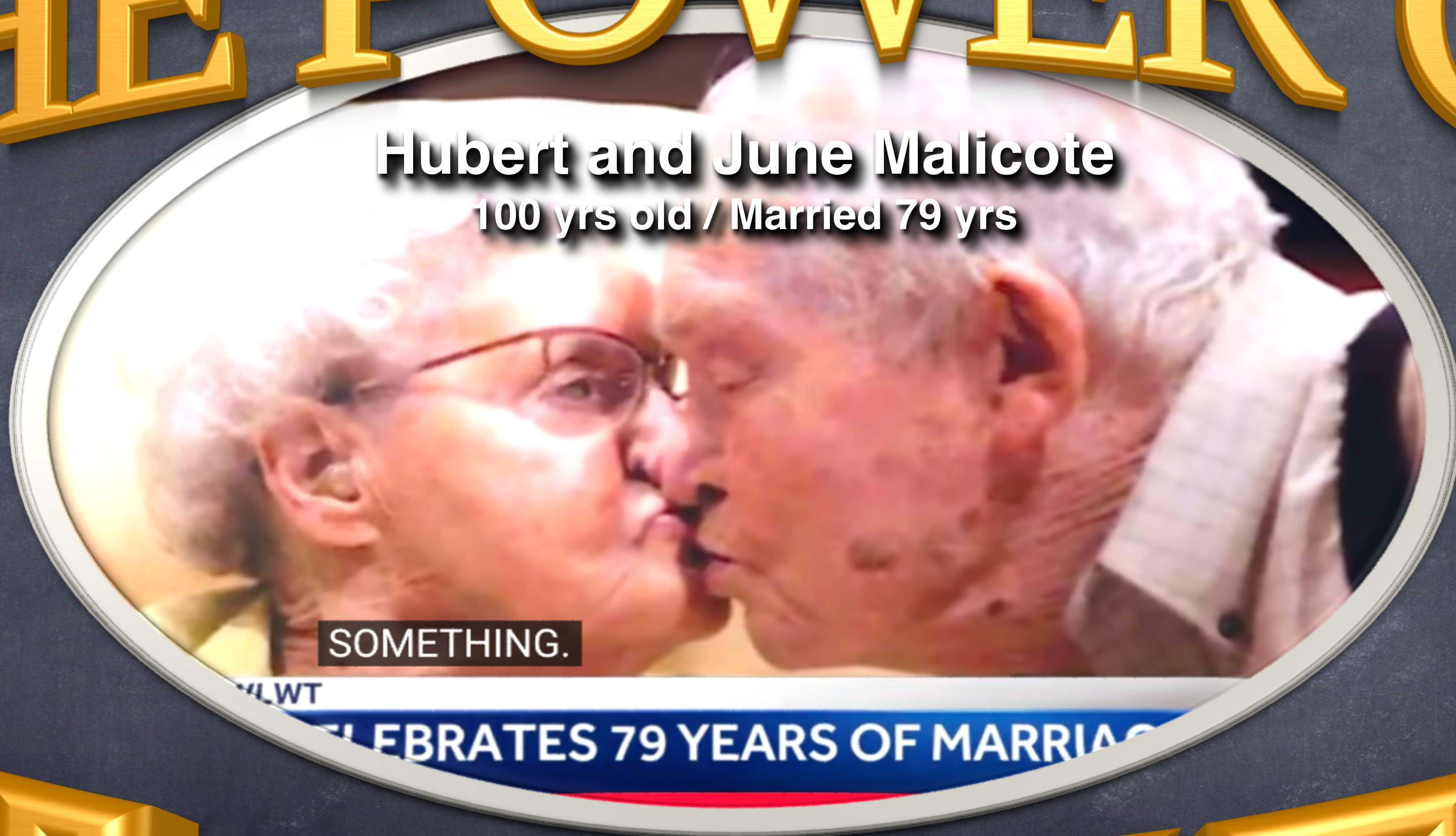
THE VALUE OF

LOVE

# THE POWER OF

Hubert and June Malicote

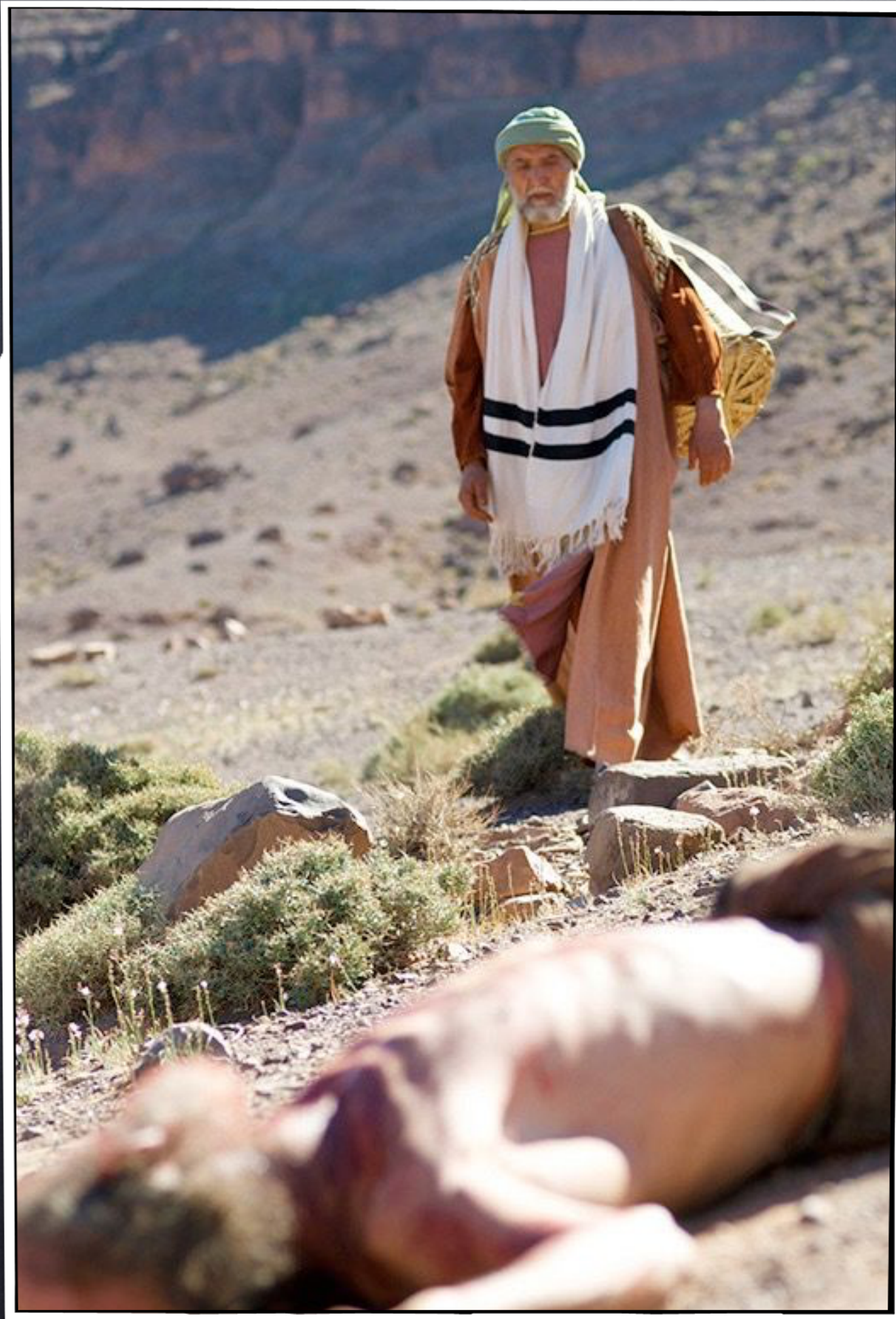
100 yrs old / Married 79 yrs



SOMETHING.

# LOVE

# THE VALUE OF LOVE



- Seen in the vanity of all things done without it (1 Cor 13:1-3)
- Seen in its character and fruit (1 Cor 13:4-7)
- Seen in its durability and greatness (1 Cor 13:8-13)

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

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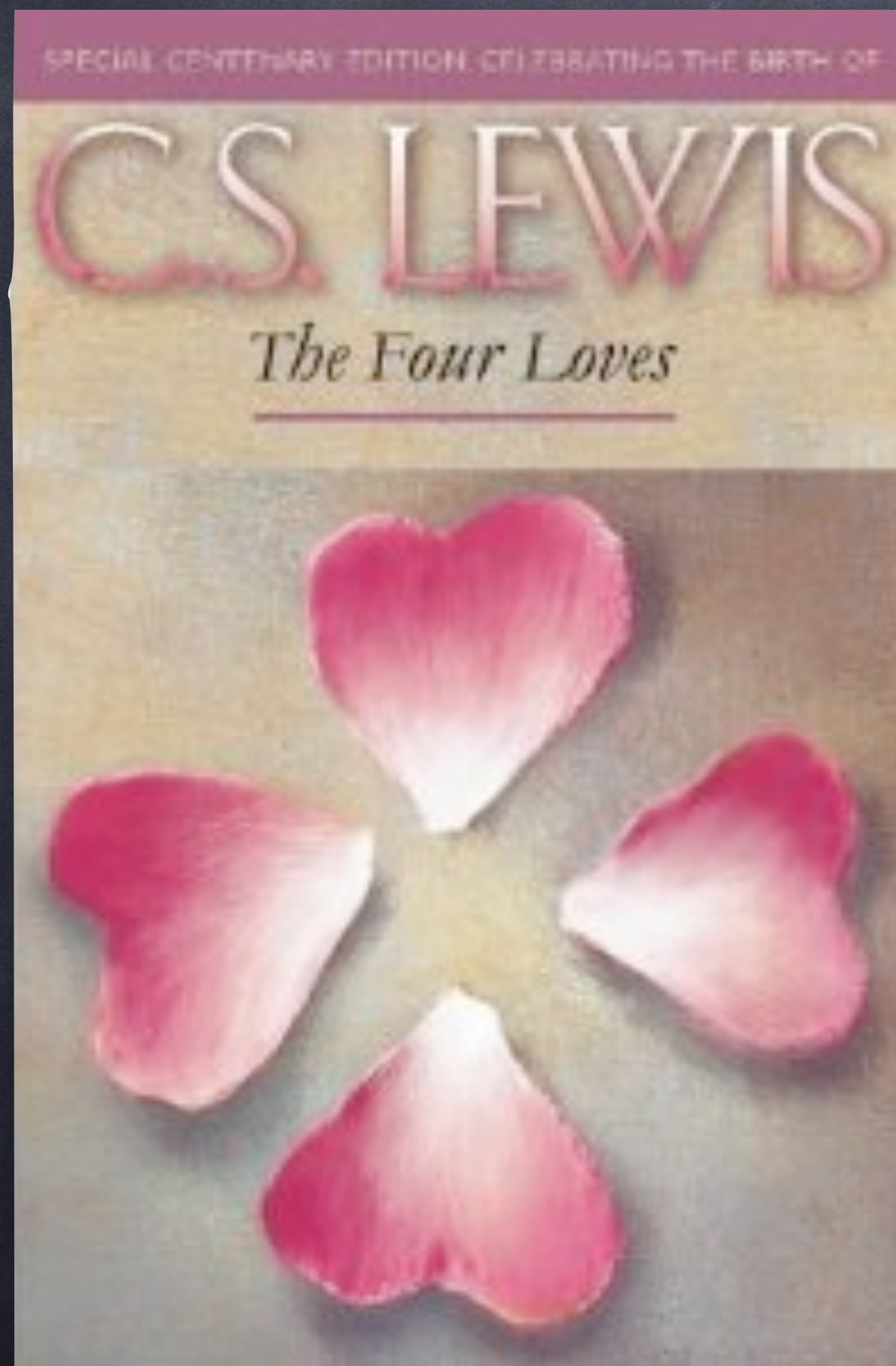
<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup> But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. <sup>13</sup> And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

## Greek Words For Love



- ✦ Eros : Carnal, sensual, selfish - Not used in NT
- ✦ Stergein : Not specifically used in NT, but ἀστοργος astorgos is (*without natural affection*) Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3
- ✦ Phileo : Friendly, love - More nearly represents tender affection.
- ✦ Agapao : Love which seeks the highest good of others.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

agape (ἀγάπη, 26)



I ADORE,  
I VALUE,  
I TREASURE,

25.43 ἀγαπάω<sup>a</sup>; ἀγάπη<sup>a</sup>, ης *f*: to have love for someone or something, based on sincere appreciation and high regard—‘to love, to regard with affection, loving concern, love.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 292). New York: United Bible Societies.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

agape (ἀγάπη, 26)



I ADORE,  
I VALUE,  
I TREASURE,

Agapao—“Love which is awakened by a sense of value in an object which causes one to prize it . . . It is a love of esteem and approbation” (Weust).

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

agape (ἀγάπη, 26)



I ADORE,  
I VALUE,  
I TREASURE,

- Act of the will – not emotion (Mt. 5:43-48; Mk 12:29-31; Jn. 3:16; Luke 10:27-37)
- Does NOT occur by chance / We do NOT just “fall into” agape / love (Mk 12:29-31; John 13:34; 15:12; Col 3:14; 1 Thes. 4:9-10; 1 Jn 3:23; 4:21)
- The opposite of selfishness (Phili 2:1-10)
- **Only when I love God as I should will I be able to love others as He commands.**

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

## Our Perfect Example of Love

- Expressed to the undeserving! (Rom. 5:8)
- Not Exclusive (Mat. 5:44-48)
- A Caring Love, (John 11:33-35)
- Concentrated Exercise of Will (Mark 1:40,41; 12:29-30; Mat. 22:34-40)
- Does Not Overlook or Excuse sin (John 2:13-22; Mark 10:21)



# THE VALUE OF LOVE

## JESUS COMMANDS LOVE



- Jesus' Instructions To His Disciples (Jn 13:31-35; 15:9-12)
- Followers of Christ Are To Have A Deep And Abiding Love For Each Other (Heb 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22)
- A Test of Discipleship (1 John 3:10,11,14-23; 4:7,8,20-5:3)

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NKJV)

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# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen in the vanity of all things done without it (1 Cor 13:1–3)

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# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen in the vanity of all things done without it (1 Cor 13:1–3)



1 Corinthians 13:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

If the highest possible manifestation of tongues, prophecy, knowledge, faith, benevolence and sacrifice are rendered pointless by lovelessness, then so are all other words & deeds.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Character and Fruit (1 Cor 13:4–7)

## 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Character and Fruit (1 Cor 13:4–7)



1 Corinthians 13:4  
(NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long *and*  
is kind; love does not  
envy; love does not  
parade itself, is not  
puffed up;

- “**Suffers long**” - Not quick to punish or retaliate wrongs incurred – associated with mercy.
- “**Is kind**” - sympathetic sweetness of temper, compassionate, goodness, supporting, helpful, — instead of hurt.
- Is **not jealous**, is **not boastful or arrogant** – but is **meek** and **humble**.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Character and Fruit (1 Cor 13:4–7)




1 Corinthians 13:5  
(NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> does not behave  
rudely, does not seek  
its own, is not  
provoked, thinks no  
evil;

- **“Does not behave rudely”** — conducts itself with proper decorum – not with contempt.
- **“Is not selfish”** — but rather a genuine concern for the well being of other people.
- **“Not provoked”** — does NOT go around with a chip on its shoulder.
- **“Thinks no evil”** — does not dwell on evils it has incurred (*fertile soil for resentment / bitterness*)

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Character and Fruit (1 Cor 13:4-7)


- 
- **Love does not rejoice in iniquity:**
    - ▶ Love finds NO pleasure in hearing of the moral weakness of another, / Sin hurts the sinner & all who love them (Rom 6:23).
    - ▶ Love never encourages another in sin / does not tempt another to do evil / refrains from that which may lead another into evil (Rom. 1:32; 14:13-15).

1 Corinthians 13:6  
(NKJV)

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Character and Fruit (1 Cor 13:4–7)

- 
- **Love rejoices in the truth:**
    - ▶ Love is never ashamed to speak or accept the truth. (Romans 1:16)
    - ▶ Love will speak the truth, in the most difficult of situations, in the best way possible (Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 2:2)
    - ▶ Love rejoices when the truth is obeyed, returned to, propagated . . .

1 Corinthians 13:6  
(NKJV)

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# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Character and Fruit (1 Cor 13:4–7)



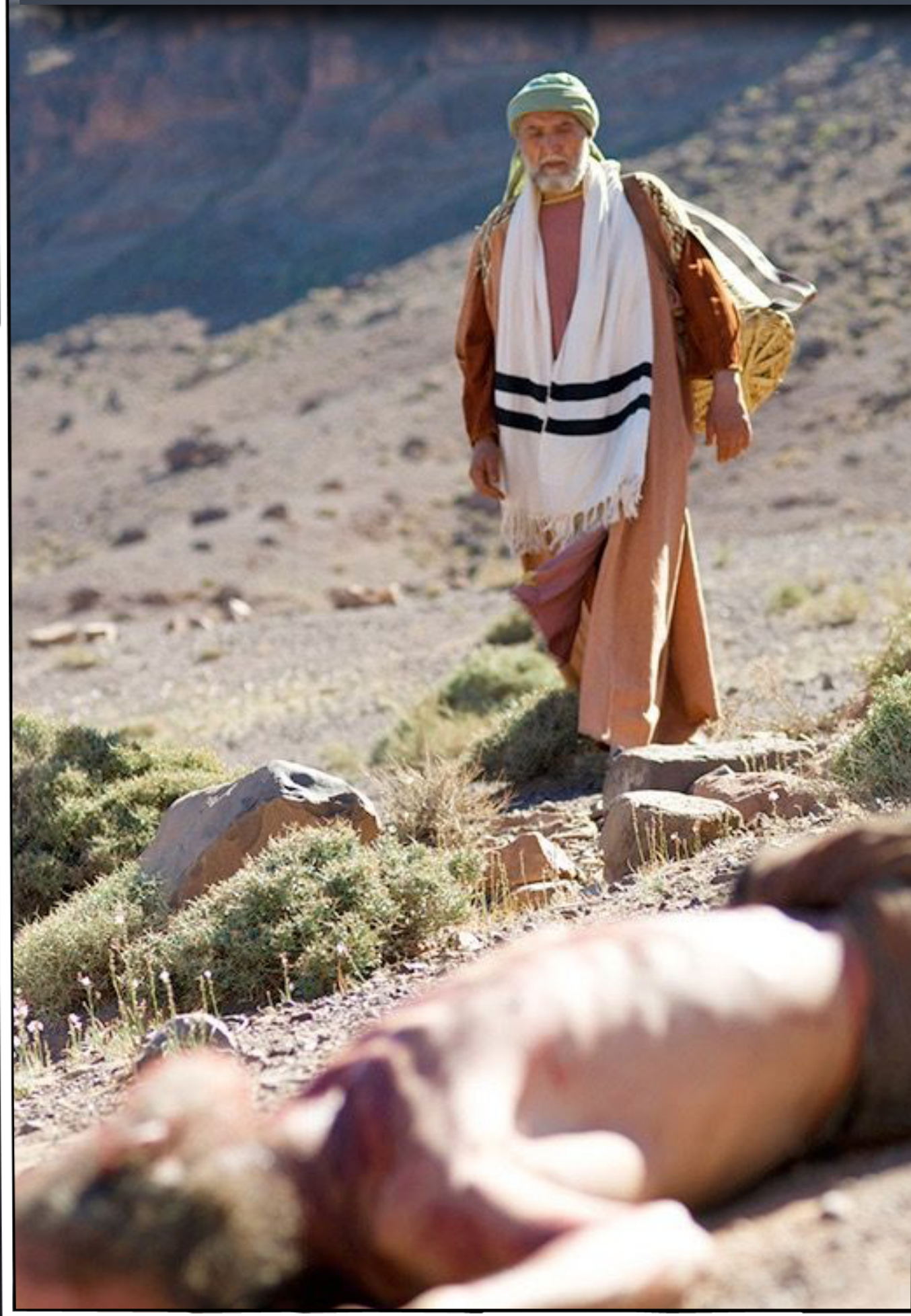
1 Corinthians 13:7  
(NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> bears all things,  
believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.

- **“Bears all things”** : To remain steady under trial, to hold another up (Gal. 6:2; 1 Pet 4:8).
- **“Believes all things”** : believes the best until evidence proves otherwise / Just / Honest.
- **“Hopes all things”** : When evidence is adverse – still hopes for the best / Optimistic.
- **“Endures all things”** - love sticks it out . . . It doesn't quit under adverse circumstances.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Character and Fruit (1 Cor 13:4–7)

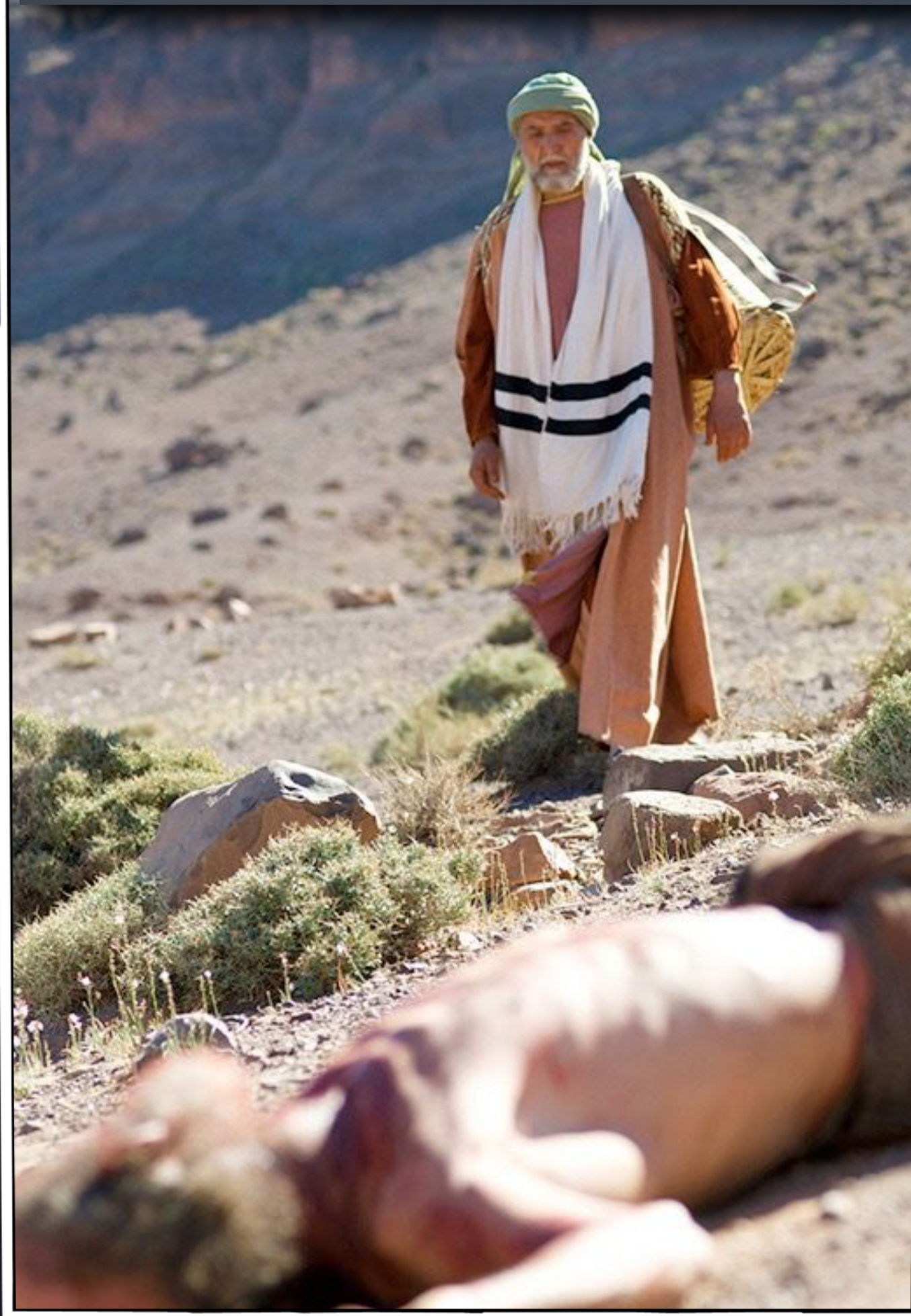


Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. <sup>14</sup> But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Character and Fruit (1 Cor 13:4–7)



## Galatians 5:22–26 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Durability and Greatness (1 Cor 13:8–13)

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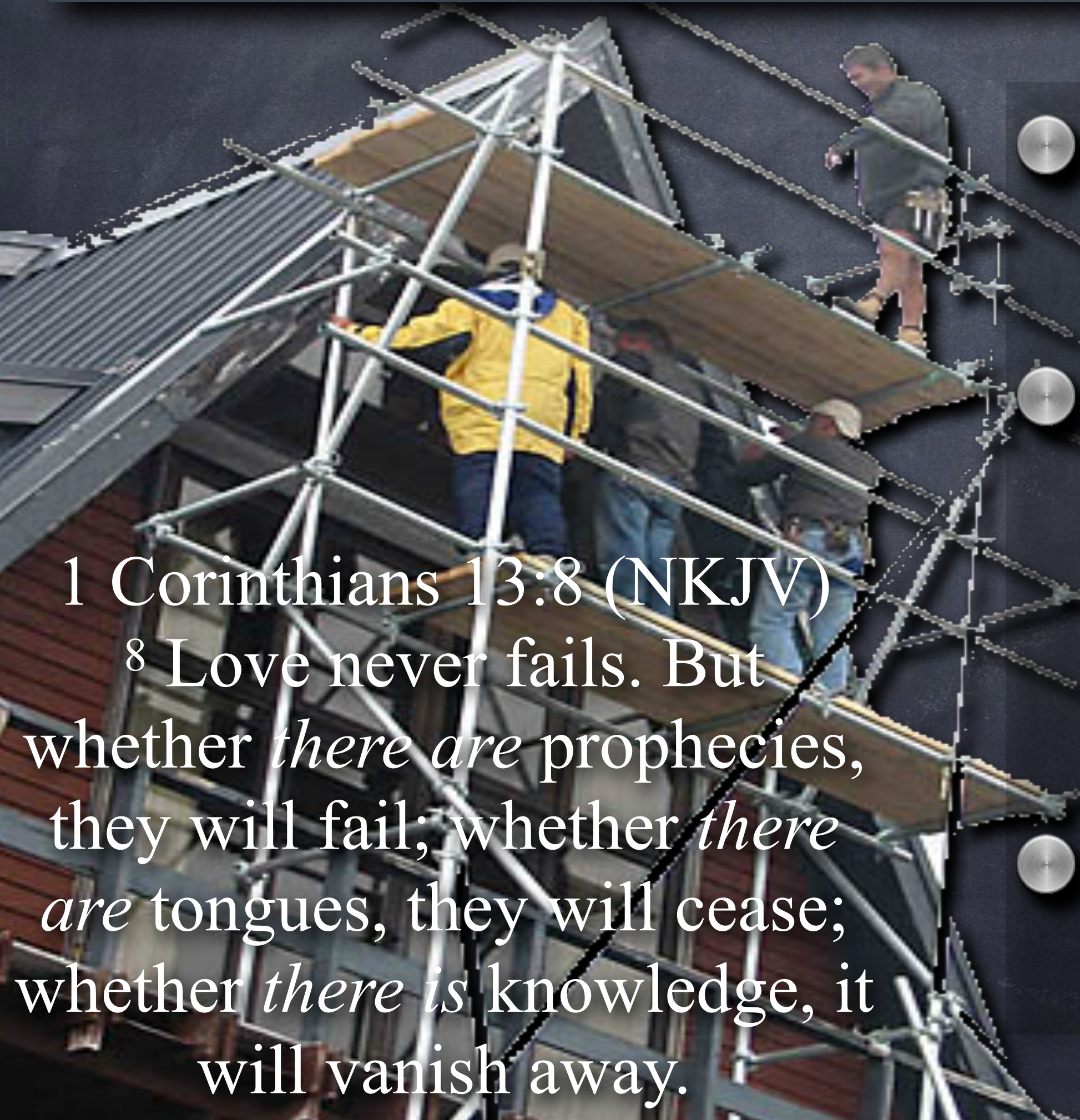
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# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Durability and Greatness (1 Cor 13:8-13)



1 Corinthians 13:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.

- Love is the BETTER way in contrast to miraculous gifts (12:27-31)
- Miraculous gifts were temporary, and would cease when they accomplished their purpose in revealing and confirming God's revelation.
- God's word produces faith and hope (13:1-12; Rom. 10:17; Titus 1:2)

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

Seen In Its Durability and Greatness (1 Cor 13:8–13)

1 Corinthians 13:13  
(NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> And now abide  
faith, hope, love,  
these three; but the  
greatest of these *is*  
love.

- Faith and hope continue to depend upon that which miraculous gifts produced - God's confirmed revelation, the scriptures.
- Love, however, is supreme — it outlasts even faith and hope, and will be perfected in eternity.

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR CHARACTER, YOUR FRUIT ...

- ✦ envious?
- ✦ boastful?
- ✦ puffed up?
- ✦ rude?
- ✦ selfish?
- ✦ easily provoked?
- ✦ focussed on evil?
- ✦ happy with iniquity?

UNLOVING

OR

LOVING

- ✓ Long suffering?
- ✓ kind?
- ✓ Joyful in the truth?
- ✓ Supportive & protective of the righteous & weak?
- ✓ Looking for the good?
- ✓ Hopeful, optimistic?
- ✓ Enduring?

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR CHARACTER, YOUR FRUIT ...

- ✓ Are we merciful? Patiently enduring the wrongs done to us? Willing, desiring & ABLE to forgive?
- ✓ Do we do good to those who do us wrong? What do we DESIRE?
- ✓ Are we genuine with others? Honest? Forthright? Doing right?
- ✓ Long suffering?
- ✓ kind?
- ✓ Joyful in the truth?
- ✓ Supportive & protective of the righteous & weak?
- ✓ Looking for the good?
- ✓ Hopeful, optimistic?
- ✓ Enduring?

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR CHARACTER, YOUR FRUIT ...

- ✓ Do we seek to help the weak, support those who stumble so they can get back up?
- ✓ Do we look for the good in others and strive to encourage them – patiently helping them?

- ✓ Long suffering?
- ✓ kind?
- ✓ Joyful in the truth?
- ✓ Supportive & protective of the righteous & weak?
- ✓ Looking for the good?
- ✓ Hopeful, optimistic?
- ✓ Enduring?

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR CHARACTER, YOUR FRUIT ...

- ✓ Do we think the best of others – optimistically encouraging spiritual success?
- ✓ Do we refuse to give up on those who will accept our help – in spite of their frequent failures?
- ✓ Long suffering?
- ✓ kind?
- ✓ Joyful in the truth?
- ✓ Supportive & protective of the righteous & weak?
- ✓ Looking for the good?
- ✓ Hopeful, optimistic?
- ✓ Enduring?

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR CHARACTER, YOUR FRUIT ...



Colossians 3:12-14 (NKJV)

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# THE VALUE OF LOVE

WHAT IF WE ALL LOVED AS WE SHOULD?

*A More Excellent Way*



- How would our families be affected?
- How would our community be affected?
- How would this congregation be affected?

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

# THE VALUE OF LOVE

## WHAT IF WE ALL LOVED AS WE SHOULD?

*A More Excellent Way*



1 Corinthians 13:4-13

- God loves you so much that He gave His only begotten Son for you and invites you to obey Him (John 3:16; Mark 16:16)
- God asks for your love in return, (Mat. 22:34-40; 1 Jn 5:4; Jn 14:24)
- Only when I love God as I should will I be able to love others as He commands.



# A More Excellent Way

## THE VALUE OF

## LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Charts by Don McClain

Preached January 24, 2016

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