

Sunday, February 9th

What is Love?

And yet I will show you the most excellent way. - 1 Co 12:31. (NIV)

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

The one who loves _____ time to others.

The one who loves _____ kindness to others.

The one who loves is not a _____ (Greek-English Lexicon)

*The one who loves puts their attention, interest, and expression upon others, not self.
(Php 2)*

5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

The one who loves is self-aware as to not reduce the _____ of others by their own actions.

The one who loves is not at the _____ of its own aims and objectives, insisting on their _____.

The one who loves aims to put others at ease, not _____.

The one who loves is resilient to not keep lists as _____.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Love must not be thought of as _____ to moral considerations.

Leon Morris, 1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 7, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 178.

7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love does not give way _____; it endures. Always trusts points to the quality that is ever ready to allow for circumstances and to see the best in others (cf. Moffatt, 'always eager to

believe the best'). This does not mean that love is _____, but that it does not think the _____ (as is the way of the world). It retains its faith. Love is not deceived by the pretences of any rogue, but it is always ready to _____ the benefit of the doubt. Always hopes is the forward look. This is not an unreasoning _____, which fails to take account of reality. It is rather a refusal to take failure as _____. It is the confidence that looks to ultimate triumph by the grace of God. Always perseveres brings the thought of steadfastness. The verb (hypomenō) denotes not a patient, resigned acquiescence, but an active, positive fortitude. It is the endurance of the _____ who, in the thick of the battle, is undismayed, but continues to lay about him vigorously. Love is not overwhelmed, but manfully plays its part whatever the difficulties.

Moffatt James Moffatt, The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians (Hodder & Stoughton, 1943; Moffatt New Testament Commentary).
Leon Morris, 1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 7, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 179.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

*13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
- 1 Cor. 13:4-13 (NIV)*

Joy is love exalted; peace is love in repose; long-suffering is love enduring; gentleness is love in society; goodness is love in action; faith is love on the battlefield; meekness is love in school; and temperance is love in training. - Dwight Lyman Moody (Evangelist)

When I have learnt to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now. - C. S. Lewis

Questions for Reflection:

1. Where am I needing comfort in the love God offers in Jesus (now and always)?
2. Where am I being convicted about the quality of my love for others (and how does that point me back to question one)?

