

Prov. 31:10-31 – “A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.’ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”

Introduction

- In your Bibles, go to 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13
- Mother’s Day is always a special day, because it should remind us of love
- It should remind us of the great gift of love that each of us has been given
- Fact: To be born, considering the alternative, is in itself a gift or act of love
- Because God has loved us, because God has demonstrated His love, by sending His Son to die for us – we can sleep not only with Mother’s love, but God’s also
- Let’s look at an incredible definition of love, and seek God’s face this morning
- Stand and read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 / Pray

Point 1 – There’s Hope for Us

- We must understand the context of this passage to be able to fully grab it
- On the surface, appears that Paul is simply telling us how to live, but there’s more
- Acts 9 records for us the conversion of Saul to Paul, and shows us the fear of God
- Yet, even in that fear – even in that despair – God showed mercy to Paul
- Paul was a murderer; he was an agent of the Romans; sent to destroy the church
- His life mission was to weed out and kill the followers of “The Way” (expound)
- But here, on the road to Damascus, God’s love was shown even to this murderer
- APP: If God could reach out and love a man like Paul – there’s hope for us
- Love is something we have as a gift from God for us, and to be used by us
- How we treat one another in this world is outlined in this passage
- TRANS: Let’s reflect on this passage and examine our lives before a Holy God
- Ask yourself, “What is Love?” (APP: Mother’s Day and beyond ...)

Point 2 – What is love?

- As believers we must examine love, and comprehend how to show it ... always
- It must be the central act that the whole world sees and hears, without delay
- Love is patient: How patient are you when things don’t go your way?
- Love is kind: Are you able to hug complete stranger; like a homeless person?
- It does not envy: God instructed us not to covet (Ex 20); we must grasp this
- What we have is FROM God, and what we need will be given BY God
- It does not boast -- it is not proud: Love is not about us; it’s about Christ!
- It is not rude, it is not self seeking: Do you seek love for wrong reasons?

- It is not easily angered: patience; grace; mercy is underserved (mercy at cross)
- It keeps no record of wrong: Do you have a checklist of sins? Why? Consider if someone kept a checklist of your sins? (There is none righteous (Rom 3:10))
- Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth: Happiness is in the truth; being miserable and having that grey cloud always is NOT living in truth (ref 1 John 1:7)

Key Application ...

- Note this last verse here and the key word that is used (always means ALWAYS)
- KJV: Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- It always protects: Shielded from danger
- It always trusts: Having complete confidence and faith in
- It always hopes: promise, being optimistic (there's a future to be had)
- It always perseveres: Refuses to stop, diligent, pursuing
- God pursued us intentionally to be redeemed to Him: Christ was the final way
- Romans 5:8 quotes, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
- APP: It does not matter who it is – our reflection of love MUST be shown
- Whether it's loving our Mom's today; or loving a stranger on the street – we must love in all things and be part of bringing people to Jesus Christ

Conclusion

- Paul knew this and in this passage he was remembering what he was given in life
- He was remembering that true love never fades, and never looks for ways out
- God's love for us is unwavering; without excuses or apologies for being shown

On Mother's Day we remember the love that we have been shown; gift of life

- APP: But do we eagerly show that same love to those around us? (Expound)
- APP: Do we show others who the true and living God is/bring His love to all?

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- As believers, we must follow in total submission to this love; willing to die for it
- We must be eager to love one another, for love is all that will matter in the end (Invite singers)
- Love of Christ needs to be first – accept Him as savior: Salvation is calling
- Love of one another is a fruit of following Christ: Is repentance needed?