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# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Great Chapters of the Bible Series, Lesson 40

**Lesson Title:** The Love Chapter – 1 Corinthians 13

**Take Home Point:** Love is the most excellent way.

#### Warm-Up:

When my children were younger, every once in a while they would make something for me or maybe do something special just to show that they loved me. Occasionally they still do. And when I was a child, I did the same thing for my parents. Today I do it for my wife or my children—just because I love them and want to show them my love. Could I require or force my young children do those things to show their love? No. I might be able to make them do it, but that would not be a show of love. It would demonstrate submission or perhaps even fear, but not love. The expressions of love I received meant that much more simply because they were done voluntarily, from a happy heart.

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 12:31b - 13:13; 1 John 3:16

#### Observation (What happened?):

List all the characteristics of love listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

What is Paul looking forward to in his future?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that love is greater than faith or hope?

According to John's letter, what is the greatest love of all?

#### Insight:

In Galatians 5:22-26 Paul writes, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other."* (NIV) Now compare that with the list describing love in today's reading – patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, rejoices in truth, protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres, and never fails. Isn't it interesting, although not at all surprising, that there is so much similarity between the evidences of the Holy Spirit and the characteristics of love in a person's life? Most people would probably like to have these traits in themselves (and in people around them, too!), and many attempt to accomplish it on their own. But it is a futile pursuit; only the power of God working in a person's life can bring about such a radical change in thinking and living. It is God's love in us, given to us by the greatest work of God's love, that allows us to live a life of true love.

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

Who do you love? How do you show your love to them?

What does each of love's characteristics mean to you in everyday life?

Kingdom Quest year 2