

# Supreme Priority

*Ray Stedman*

I. Introduction. Text: I Corinthians 13:1-7.

II. Three aspects of love.

A. The pre-eminence of love.

1. The fruit of the Spirit are far more important than the gifts of the Spirit.
2. The fruit of the Spirit are all manifestations of love.
3. The love of God in a person permits all other characteristics.
4. Love must be genuine.
5. Genuine love is a decision of the will.
6. Love for God is not difficult because all one needs is to be aware of how God has loved him.
  - a. Love is a supernatural quality.
  - b. God alone can give someone this quality.
7. Love gives value to life.
  - a. Communication without love is useless.
  - b. Power to know and do is useless without love.
  - c. Sacrificial zeal is useless without love.

B. The practice of love.

1. Ways of testing love.
  - a. Positives: patient, kind, and honest.
  - b. Negatives: jealousy, haughtiness, insisting on its own way, gloating over other's miseries.
2. Love covers.
3. Love is always ready to trust someone anew.
4. Love never gives up.

5. To love is to be like Christ.

C. The permanence of love.

**Application questions:**

1. Who most exemplifies love to you in your life? Which qualities shown above do they exhibit the best?

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2. Which feature of love stands out to you the most? Explain.

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3. Which aspect of love do you struggle with the most? How has God given you power to overcome this struggle?

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