Friarn Chapel, Bridgwater, United Kingdom Dr. Rick Griffith

17 June 2016 Marriage of Noah & Sarah Sekho (12:30 PM) Wedding Message

NLT 10 Minutes

**Love Never Gives Up**

***1 Corinthians 13:7***

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

**Topic:** Love

**Subject:** How can your love for one another last?

**Complement:** Never give up loving each other.

**Purpose:** The listeners and couple getting married will persevere in their love for others.

# Introduction

### Interest: The feelings on a wedding day are very strong—and they should be, given that you have anticipated this day your whole life.

### Need: No one goes into marriage with the expectation that this love will fail. No one wants it to fail either, but few know what to do to keep it from failing.

### Subject: So how can your love for one another last? How can the love you share this wedding day never end?

### Background: The context of today’s text is relational, especially in reference to gifts. The basic idea of 1 Corinthians 13 is that love is more important than spiritual gifts.

#### Love is better than gifts (1-3).

#### Love benefits others (4-7).

#### Love outlasts gifts (8-13).

### Preview: The center section tells us the best description of love that you will ever find—all that benefit others (4-7). These 14 qualities lead up to the climax in verse 7. Here we see four qualities of love that assure that you marriage lasts.

### Text: In lieu of time, today we will look only at this one verse: 1 Corinthians 13:7. Ah, 7 is the perfect number! It says, “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” Simple enough, especially in the Greek that has only 8 words—the word “all” four times, separated by four verbs: literally, “covers all, believes all, hopes all, endures all.”

(But what do these four verbs mean? They are in essence four commands to love in practical ways that answer the key question: how can you make your love last? So here are four practical tips that, if you follow them, will preserve your love for a lifetime. Here’s the first exhortation…)

# I. Protect each other.

[You’re both imperfect, but you must guard against all attacks on your marriage.]

## “Love bears all things.” Really? So you just put up with every weakness so that your spouse can take advantage of you? No.

## “Bears all things” means love protects the shortcomings of others (13:7a).

### Literally, it means, “to keep confidential, cover, pass over in silence” (BDAG).

### Harnack defines this “bearing” as to “throw a cloak of silence over what is displeasing in another person” (BDAG).

### Another translates it, “Love springs no leak” (BDAG)!

## So protect each other in light of each other’s shortcomings.

### Some of these you already know. Others you will find out soon enough.

### Some things you won’t like about one another. Still protect these things.

### How? Don’t reveal your spouse’s unknown weaknesses to others—especially to family members. Cover for the other’s shortcomings, like my wife has done for my horrible weakness in gift giving for decades.

### Noah, lead the way in protecting Sarah. How?

#### Do not compare Sarah to any other woman. She is unique in God’s sight and you protect her by not comparing her to anyone else.

#### Study her for a lifetime to see where you are strong and she is weak—then protect her at that weak point. As she will move into your comfort zone in your home culture next year, make this first year of marriage one where you genuinely protect her by putting her first above all.

### Sarah, you love your father and rightfully respect him, but today your allegiance changes from submission to your Dad to submission to your husband under God. Protect Noah from feeling that he is second to your father. Each of these men must rightfully hold a unique, special place in your heart without comparison.

(So protect each other: “Love bears all things.” How else can you make your love last? The next phrase says to…)

# II. Trust each other.

[Place such a pure faith in the other that you leave no room for doubt of integrity.]

## “Love believes all things.” What does that mean? Does it mean that love is gullible? No. It means that…

## Love believes the best of others (13:7b).

## You have thousands of opportunities ahead to think the worst or think the best. Well, think the best. Trust each other. But what does trust look like?

## Don’t have “secret money” where you are not accountable to the other—except to give to the other!

## Always tell the truth to one another. This will strengthen your trust.

## Continually ask yourself when making decisions, “Hmm, will this way *strengthen* my spouse’s trust in me—or weaken it?” Then do that which builds trust.

(How else can you make your love last? The next phrase says to…)

# III. Hope in each other.

[Don’t be pessimists. Be optimists.]

## “Love hopes all things.”

## During our premarital counseling, I asked Sarah why she wanted to marry Noah. She said, “He makes me laugh.”

## Love hopes in God that problems will be resolved (13:7c).

## Our world lacks hope, but you can help yourselves and help others restore some hope.

## Recognize that Jesus “will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). Acknowledging his presence will give you hope!

## Live in light of the return of our Lord Jesus, which is called “the blessed hope” (Titus 2:13).

## God has filled your future with hope. It is unknown, but it is not dark. Instead, it is bright but blurry. As God brings your future into the present and then the past, anticipate that future with each other with a contagious optimism.

(So protect, trust and hope. What’s the final way to make your love last? The next phrase says to…)

# IV. Endure each other.

[Persevere with one another.]

## “Love endures all things.”

## Love perseveres when personally wronged (13:7d).

## Like every relationship, you have already hurt each other at times. You have even more misunderstandings ahead. But persevere.

## Look ahead with only open and closed doors but no back doors.

## Today begins not a sprint but a marathon. Run it together, “looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).

## But *how* can you endure marriage?

### Build your marriage in prayer. Begin each morning before you get out of bed talking to your Heavenly Father.

### Always keep learning. Spend time each day reading God’s Word and it will instruct you how to endure.

(“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” How do these four brief descriptions of love help you make your love last? In short…)

# Conclusion

### *Never give up loving each other* (Main Idea).

### “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

### This means (Main Points):

#### Protect each other.

#### Trust each other.

#### Hope in each other.

#### Endure each other.

### How? Substitute the word “God” for the word “love” and you have the perfect example and ever-present source of strength: “God bears all things, God believes all things, God hopes all things, God endures all things.” God protects, God trusts, God gives hope, and God certainly endures more than any human ever has. Ask for his enablement.

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

# NT Survey Outline

### (12:31b–13:13) Paul notes how love is superior to and indispensable for beneficial use of gifts as love is superior to gifts, love benefits others, and love outlasts gifts to urge the church to a selfless use of its gifts.

#### (12:31b) The best way to use spiritual gifts is the loving way (as opposed to emphasizing the gifts which edify the most members; cf. 12:31a).

#### (13:1-3) One reason love is indispensable for beneficial use of gifts is because love is superior to gifts in what it produces.

##### (13:1) A sign gift such as *tongues* used to the maximum by speaking every human and angelic language without love speaks empty and worthless words and so *produces nothing*.

##### (13:2) One who uses any gift to its ultimate degree without love *is nothing*.

###### (13:2a) A speaking gift such as *prophecy* without love is worthless to edify others.

###### (13:2b)*Wisdom* that knows all previously hidden doctrines but without love is worthless to edify others.

###### (13:2c) *Knowledge* that knows all facts but without love is worthless to edify others.

###### (13:2d) *Faith* that can move mountains but without love is worthless to edify others.

##### (13:3) A serving gift such as *giving* to the ultimate degree without love *gains nothing*.

###### (13:3a) Giving all my possessions to the poor without love gains nothing for me.

###### (13:3b) Giving my life itself in martyrdom by burning as the most horrible death possible burning without love gains nothing for me.

#### (13:4-7) Another reason love is indispensable for beneficial use of gifts is because love **{i-Italic{**benefits others}i}in contrast to the Corinthian misuse of gifts for self-edification.

##### (13:4a-b) Love benefits others passively and actively.

###### (13:4a) Love is passively patient by not retaliating towards others (6:8; 11:21-22).

###### (13:4b) Love is actively kind by serving those who do harm (10:33).

##### (13:4c-5) Love doesn’t hurt others in seven negative ways.

###### (13:4c) Love isn’t inwardly jealous of others’ giftedness (3:3-4; 12:14-17).

###### (13:4d) Love doesn’t outwardly boast of its own giftedness (12:21).

###### (13:4e) Love isn’t inwardly prideful of its clique (4:6, 18), tolerance (5:2), and knowledge (8:1).

###### (13:5a) Love doesn’t behave improperly in engagement (7:36), sex roles (11:17-22), and worship (11:26-33).

###### (13:5b) Love isn’t selfish in financial (6:7) and debatable matters (10:24).

###### (13:5c) Love isn’t irritable as in initiating lawsuits (6:1).

###### (13:5d) Love isn’t unforgiving in offenses (6:8), in withholding marital sex (7:5), and by insisting on rights (8:11).

##### (13:6) Love knows the right things to get happy about.

###### (13:6a) Love doesn’t rejoice in wickedness as in delight over incest (5:2).

###### (13:6b) Love does rejoice with the truth.

##### (13:7) Love doesn’t give up on others.

###### (13:7a) Love endures the shortcomings of others as in those who misuse their gifts (12:14-26).

###### (13:7b) Love believes the best of others.

###### (13:7c) Love hopes in God that church problems will be resolved.

###### (13:7d) Love perseveres when personally wronged by courageously waiting for marriage (7:9), food (11:21), or a chance to speak (14:27).

#### (13:8-13) Another reason love is indispensable for beneficial use of gifts is because love outlasts gifts.

##### (13:8a) Love is eternal and complete.

##### (13:8b-12) Gifts are temporary and partial.

###### (13:8b-d) Prophecy, tongues and knowledge are *temporary*.

###### (13:9-12) Prophecy and knowledge are *partial*.

(13:9-10) The reason prophecy and knowledge will cease is because they are designed to give only part of the whole truth of God before the church is complete.

(13:11-12) Two illustrations show the partial nature of prophecy and knowledge.

(13:11) Gradual maturity of humans parallels how these revelatory gifts were given only until the maturity of the body of Christ at the completion of the canon.

(13:12) Poor reflections in a mirror represent how prophecy and knowledge helped Paul know in part in contrast to our complete knowledge at Christ’s return.

##### (13:13) The result of the superiority, benefits, and permanence of love is that love will not only outlast gifts but even faith and hope.

**Love Never Gives Up**

***1 Corinthians 13:7***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way that love responds to difficulty is that love doesn’t give up on others (13:7).

# I. Love protects the shortcomings of others (13:7a)*—as in those who misuse their gifts (12:14-26).*

# II. Love believes the best of others (13:7b).

# III. Love hopes in God that problems will be resolved (13:7c).

# IV. Love perseveres when personally wronged (13:7d)*—e.g., by courageously waiting for marriage (7:9), food (11:21), or a chance to speak (14:27).*

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners and couple getting married will persevere in their love for others.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: The feelings on a wedding day are very strong—and they should be, given that you have anticipated this day your whole life.

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### Subject: So how can your love for one another last? How can the love you share this wedding day never end?

### Background: The context of today’s text is relational, especially in reference to gifts. The basic idea of 1 Corinthians 13 is that love is more important than spiritual gifts.

### Preview: In 1 Corinthians 13:7 we see four qualities of love that assure that you marriage lasts.

### Text: In lieu of time, today we will look only at this one verse: 1 Corinthians 13:7.”

# I. Protect each other.

[You’re both imperfect, but you must guard against all attacks on your marriage.]

## “Love bears all things.” Really? So you just put up with every weakness so that your spouse can take advantage of you? No.

## “Bearing all things” means love protects the shortcomings of others (13:7a).

## So protect each other in light of each other’s shortcomings.

# II. Trust each other.

## “Love believes all things.” What does that mean? Does it mean that love is gullible? No. It means that…

## Love believes the best of others (13:7b).

# III. Hope in each other.

## “Love hopes all things.”

## Love hopes in God that problems will be resolved (13:7c).

# IV. Endure each other.

## “Love endures all things.”

## Love perseveres when personally wronged (13:7d).

# Conclusion

### *Never give up loving each other* (Main Idea).

### “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

### This means (Main Points):

### How? Substitute the word “God” for the word “love” and you have the perfect example and ever-present source of strength.



**Rick Griffith**

2016

Message of 10

**Title**

***Passage***

# Introduction

Subject with a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blank answer in hidden text

# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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# II. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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# Conclusion

### Main Idea has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

### Application question

**Thought Questions**

1. Read the passage aloud. Contrast:

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| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Contrast** |
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1. Text-based question

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Text

Text

Text

1. Application to your own Christian experience

Text

Text

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