



"And now abideth Faith, Hope, Love, these three; but the greatest of these is Love".

1st Corinthians 13:13.

Abide in Theel In That Deep Love of Thine.

"Abide in Thee! In that deep love of Thine, My Jesus, Lord, Thou Lamb of God divine, Down, closely down, as living branch with tree, I would abide, my Lord, my Christ, in Thee.

Abide in Thee! My Savior God, I know How love of Thine so vast in me may flow, My empty vessel, running o'er with joy, Must overflow to Thee, without alloy.

Abide in Thee! nor doubt, nor self, nor sin, Can e'er prevail with Thy blest life within; Joined to Thyself, communing, deep, my soul Knows nought besides its motions to control.

Abide in Thee! tis thus I only know The secrets of Thy mind e'en while below-All joy and peace, and knowledge of Thy Word, All pow'r and fruit, and service for the Lord.

—J. Denham Smith.





"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God: and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." "Beloved, If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." We love, because He first loved us." 1 John 4:7,11,19

Dear Friends,

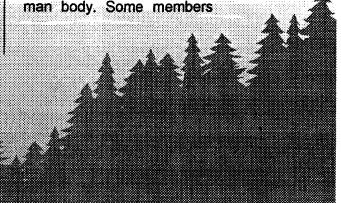
Faith, Hope, Love. What wonderful truths these three words suggest to us! In previous issues we have looked at faith and hope. In this issue we will now look at the last word "love".

Love. Where is the best place to look for the characteristics of love? It is in the chapter of the Bible that has been rightly called the love chapter - 1 Corinthians 13.

Before we look at the love chapter let us notice the setting of this beautiful chapter. In the previous chapter we read about the various gifts

that God gives to the members of the body of Christ. Some of these gifts were more public while others were not so noticeable. Paul likened these gifts to the human body. Some members





of our body are easily seen while other members are more hidden from public view. But all the members of our bodies are necessary and vital to the functions of the human body.

So it is with the spiritual body of Christ. Each Christian or member of the body of Christ is important and vital to the testimony of Christ. We easily forget that and as a result we may allow pride or jealousy or discouragement to come into our lives. The love chapter is the answer to that problem. We are to covet earnestly the best gifts but the more excellent way is the way of love.

Even if I have the gift of speaking, or of prophecy, or a good knowledge of the scriptures, and great faith, but do not have love it profits me nothing. Even if I were to give all my money away or give my body to be burned it would profit me nothing.

There are nine things that characterize love.

- 1. True love is longsuffering. It is never impatient.
- 2. It is always kind. Ephesians 4:32.
- 3. It is always generous, and never envies another.
- 4. It is humble never speaks of itself.
- 5. It is always courteous -never rude.
- 6. It is unselfish. Never seeks it's own things. Philippians 2:21.
- It is not easily provoked –not a touchy disposition.
- 8. It never imputes evil or takes into account a wrong that has been suffered.
- It is sincere. Rejoices only with the truth and not with unrighteousness. It does not make capital out of others faults nor does it delight in exposing the weakness of others.

In addition to this, true love is always ready to **bear** one another's burdens. It is ready to **believe** the best about all things. It is optimistic -- always **hoping** all things and it will **endure** all things.

There is another wonderful truth about love. It never fails. Prophecies will be done away. Tongues shall cease. Our knowledge today is partial—it too, shall be done away. We know in part but then we shall know even as we are known. Now we see through a glass darkly but then face to face.

As we think of faith, hope and love we are reminded that the greatest of these is love. Why is that? Because faith will be turned to sight, our hope will be realized when we see Him face to face. What will remain?

Only love. There in the glory with our Savior there will be nothing to hinder the full outflow of His love to us. Nor will there be on our part any thing that will hinder our love to Him. But as we think of this we each need to ask ourselves this question: How can I let the Lord's love flow through me to others today?

Here are a few things that each of us can do that will help us to manifest those nine characteristics of love in our lives.

- 1. Take some time each day to be in God's presence in prayer and the meditation of His Word. John 15:4.
- 2. "The joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10. If after reading and studying God's Word you find that you are not rejoicing in Him, you may need to pray: "Search me, O God and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalms 139:23,24. Be sure to confess to God any sin that you are aware of in your life. 1John 1:9.
- 3. Be sure to "cast all your care upon Him for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

With God's help, then, we can allow His love to flow through us day by day to those around us. This will glorify Him and bring joy and peace into our own lives.

Satisfied With Thee, Lord Jesus.

Satisfied with Thee, Lord Jesus, I am blest Peace which passeth understanding, On Thy breast, No more doubting, no more trembling, Oh, what rest! Oh, what rest!

Taken up with Thee, Lord Jesus, I would be; Finding joy and satisfaction All in Thee;

Thou the nearest and the dearest Unto me! Unto me.

List'ning for Thy shout, Lord Jesus, in the air! When Thy saints shall rise with joy to Meet Thee there,

O what gladness! No more sadness, Sin nor care, Sin nor care.

-Miss C.A. Wellesley

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

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