

Ephesians Series

Lesson #190

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Qualities of Christian Love

John 13:34, 35: 1 Corinthians 13:1–7



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

What we have learned so far:

- **Understood two types of love: “Biblical Love for All Mankind” and “Christian Love for One Another.”**
- **Christian love is developed as part of the fruit of the Spirit, and thus is not something we develop on our own.**
- **Love for God the Father is a result of spiritual growth and in turn motivates us to love others and one another.**
- **Love is the *sine qua non* of the Christian life, 1 Cor. 13:1–3.**

An attempted definition of Christian love:

Love is a mental attitude toward others which desires the best for them according to the standards of God's integrity and thinks and acts toward them consistent with that desire and standards. Christian love is impossible apart from a walk by the Spirit and spiritual growth.

Application

- 1. Live our lives as much as possible by walking in partnership with the Holy Spirit toward the goal of spiritual maturity (biblical fellowship).**
- 2. Think and pray about our reactions to others when we know we are not exhibiting Christian love.**
- 3. Don't get discouraged. Developing a biblical love for others is a lengthy process related to our own spiritual growth.**

Joy/Inner Happiness/Tranquility of Soul
James 1:3; John 15:11: 17:13

**Personal Love
for God**
Deut. 6:5

**Biblical Love for All;
Christian Love for
Other Believers**
Lev. 19:18; Jn. 13:34, 35

**Occupation with
Christ**
Heb. 12:2; Php. 3:20

Personal Sense of our Eternal Destiny
Col. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:4

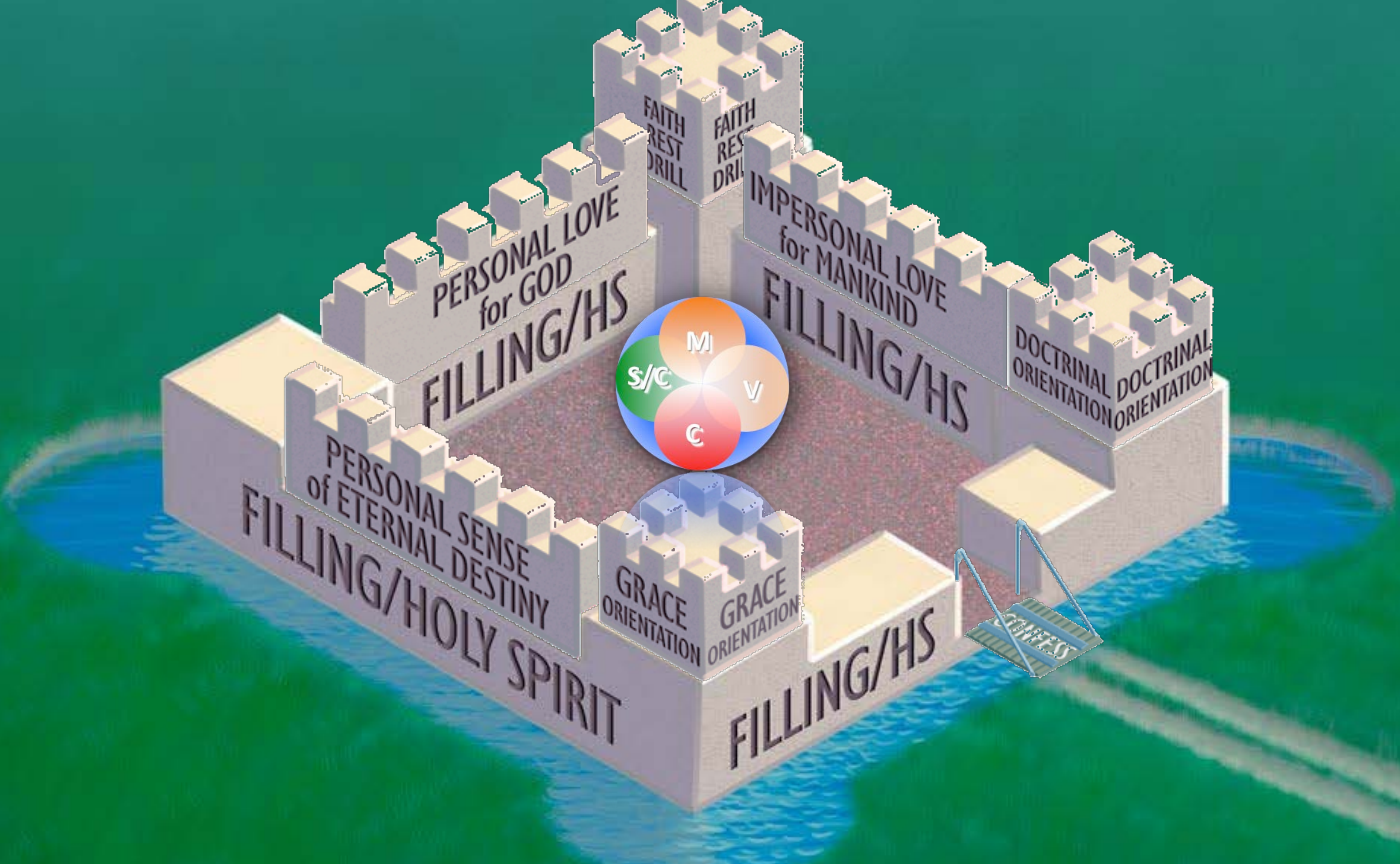
Faith-Rest Drill
Prov. 3:5, 6

Grace Orientation
Eph. 2:8, 9
2 Pet. 3:18

**Doctrinal
Orientation**
2 Pet. 3:18

Walking by the Spirit/Filled by the Spirit
Gal. 5:16

Confession of Sin, 1 John 1:9



FAITH
REST
DRILL

FAITH
REST
DRILL

PERSONAL LOVE
for GOD

IMPERSONAL LOVE
for MANKIND

DOCTRINAL
ORIENTATION

DOCTRINAL
ORIENTATION

FILLING/HS

FILLING/HS

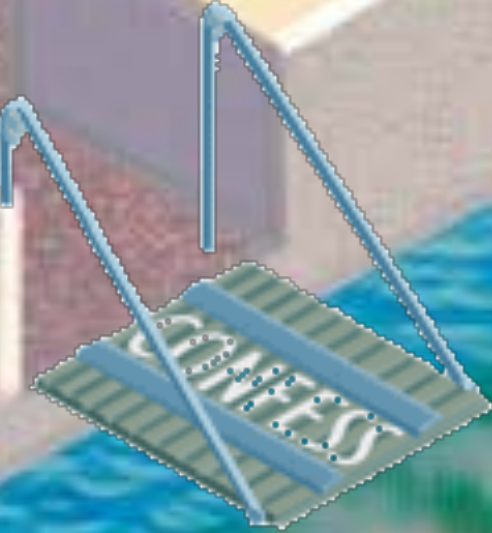
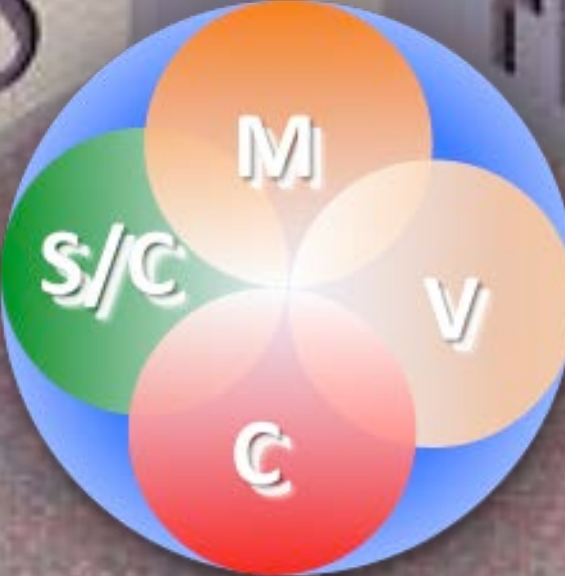
PERSONAL SENSE
of ETERNAL DESTINY

GRACE
ORIENTATION

GRACE
ORIENTATION

FILLING/HOLY SPIRIT

FILLING/HS

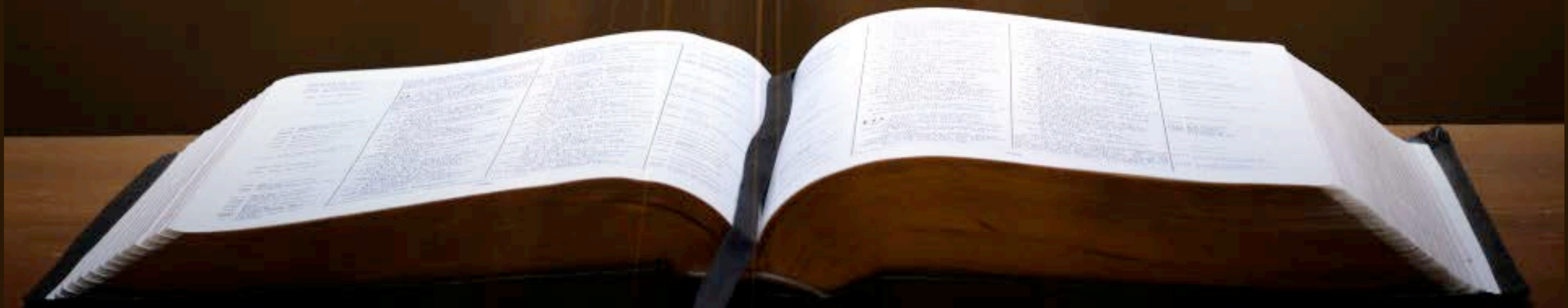


The connection between these skills:

- 1. Personal love for God: provides the motivation.**
- 2. Biblical Love for All Mankind: BLAM/
Christian Love for One Another: CLOA—evidence of
biblical discipleship (dedicated student of the Word
developing spiritual maturity).**
- 3. Occupation with Christ.**

What the Bible Teaches About

Understanding Biblical Love



1 Cor. 13:1–8 is the description of love.

1 Cor. 13:1, “If I speak with the tongues [languages] of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Cor. 13:2, “And if I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1 Cor. 13:3, “And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned*, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

***Burned rather than boast is the preferred reading here based on the Majority text readings.**

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Third-Class Condition: Range of nuances:

- (a) a *logical connection* (if A, then B) in the present time *present* (*general condition or fifth-class condition*),
- ** (b) *hypothetical situation*, and**
- (c) more probable future occurrence;

ἐάν (*ean*) + subjunctive, any tense; apodosis: any tense, any mood (present indicative for present general condition) (689, 696-99)

1 Cor. 13:1, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.”

**λαλέω *laleo*,
first person, singular,
present, active, subjunctive
to speak, to talk**

**γλῶσσα *glōssa*
fem plur dat “tongue,
language”
human languages or
angelic languages
NOT ecstatic utterance**

1 Cor. 13:1, “If I speak with the tongues [languages] of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”

γίνομαι *ginomai* verb, first person, singular, perfect, active, indicative; since the whole sentence is the apodosis of a third-class condition “If I speak with the languages of men and of angels, but do not have love, I **WOULD HAVE BECOME ...”**

1 Cor. 13:1, “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.”

**χαλκὸς ἤχων *chalkos echon*, materials of bronze were acoustic resonators hence, *echon* “sounding” indicates something that produces sound. The pres ptcp indicates continuous action.
Cymbals and other percussion instruments were used to get the attention of the gods in the mystery religions.**



1 Cor. 13:2, “And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

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**παραδίδωμι, *paradidomi*
first person, singular, aorist, active,
subjunctive,
“to give up, hand over, deliver up”**

Textual variant in 1 Cor. 13:3

Καυχῆσωμαι “I might boast”

καυθῆσωμαι “I might be burned”

1 Cor. 13:3, “And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

ὠφελέω, *opheleo*

**first person, singular, present,
passive, indicative, “to profit, to
be useful, beneficial, of value”**

1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;”

**μακροθυμέω *makrothuméō*;
long suffering, patience,
steadfastness; to remain
tranquil, calm and relaxed
while waiting, to endure
provocation without complaint.
The idea here is also to not
seek revenge, retribution, or
justification when wronged.
This is opposite to Greek
thought which put the self first.**

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**χρηστεύομαι
chrēsteúomai,
to show oneself mild, to
be kind; *chrystos*, a
cognate noun, means
something easy, or to be
morally good and
benevolent. Emphasizes
a positive reaching out or
being useful or helpful to
someone else.**

1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;”

ζηλόω *zēlóō* with the negative, to be jealous or envious; an uncontrolled outburst

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φυσιόω *phusióō* with the negative to be puffed up or conceited, related to the conceit or *gnosis* in 1 Cor. 8:1; the basic problem of the Corinthians

1 Cor. 13:5, “does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;”

ἀσχημονέω

***aschēmonéō* plus the**

negative,

to be disgraced or

shamed, love does not

disgrace or shame its

object, or behave in a

rude manner

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ζητέω *zētéō* plus the negative;

self absorption, to put itself first

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**ζητέω *zētéō* plus the negative;
self absorption, to put itself first**

**παροξύνω *paroxúnō* plus the negative;
to be easily angered, upset, or provoked. To be irritable with the object of love.**

λογίζομαι *logízomai* plus the negative; in the sense of the LXX with the idea of imputing wrong doing to others, love gives the benefit of the doubt

1 Cor. 13:6, “does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;”

χαίρω *chaírō*; love does not go along with evil, or overlook evil. That is sin. Love has integrity and is consistent with righteousness. Love without integrity is not love.

**συγχαίρω *sugchaírō*;
Rejoice together**

**ἀλήθεια *alētheia*
fem sing dat
truth, truthfulness,
faithfulness: love has
integrity**

ἀδικία *adikía* sin, unrighteousness

1 Cor. 13:7, “bears [always protects] all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

στέγω *stégō*;

To cover over in order to protect, doesn't discuss the others flaws or faults. (I)

Generally meaning to conceal, with the acc.

(1 Cor. 13:7, love hides the faults of others or covers them up). Does not embarrass them. Not excusing faults, but not discussing the other's faults.

1 Cor. 13:8, “Love never fails.”

Steadfast

Kind

Not rude

**Rejoicing
in integrity**

Not conceited

**Not rejoicing
in wrongdoing**

Not arrogant

LOVE

Not envious

Not imputing evil

Not self-absorbed

Not easily angered