

The More Excellent Way (The Way of Love)
I Corinthians 12:31-14:1

The Way of Christ Is the Way of Love – I Jo 4:9-10

- It is Who He is (I Jo 4:8); He does what He is (Jo 3:16; Ro 5:8-10)

First Corinthians 13 Is a Portrait – a Word Picture – of God (Seen throughout entire Bible!) – I Cor 13:4-8

- “Before creation”: God’s intent to have an eternal family of love – Eph 1:4-5
- At creation: Spirit of God “hovering” with purposeful and creative love – Gen 1-3
- For rebel creatures: Those wanting a way other than the way of love – Jo 3:16; Ro 5:8-10
- At the consumation of the ages: Where everything but love has “passed away” – Rev 21:4

In Christ, We See Who Perfect Love Is and How Perfect Love Lives – Ro 5:8; I Jo 4:9-10

- Replace the word “love” with the word “Christ” – I Cor 13:4-8
...He is the radiant manifestation of God Who is love – I Jo 4:8; Heb 1:1-3
- Place faith in Christ and receive the “Gift” of Perfect Love in all His fullness – I Jo 4:17
...in God’s Kingdom, we become what we receive – Jo 1:12; Ro 8:16-17
...replace the word “love” with your name – I Cor 13:4-8

The “More Excellent Way”: “Pursue Love” – I Cor 12:31; 14:1

- Starts with a deliberate, decisive choice of faith to receive Christ – Jo 1:12; 13:20
...God’s love is a holy passion for oneness – Jo 17:22-24
 (“God’s love for me in Christ will never die”) – Jo 13:1; I Cor 13:8
- Continues with a daily, deliberate, decisive choice of faith to release Christ and His Love – I Jo 3:16; 4:11-12
...practice the promise and presence of God’s love for you and in you – I Jo 3:1; 4:19; Ro 8:35-39
 (focus more on His love for you than your love for Him – I Jo 4:19)
...practice the presence of people – Jo 13:34; I Jo 4:7,8,11
 (a non-selective readiness to be for the “others” God sends – I Cor 12:18)
...practice giving “presents” – I Jo 3:18; I Cor 13:4-8
 (personalized, concretized expressions that meet specific needs – Eph 4:29)

WE MAY SPEAK MANY “HUMAN” OR “ANGELIC” LANGUAGES, BUT WITHOUT LOVE...

- ...WE CAN’T SPEAK GOD’S LANGUAGE! – I Cor 13:1