

The More Excellent Way
(Love That Is Helpful, Humble, and Heroic)
I Corinthians 13:4-5

To Receive Christ (the Fullness of God's Love) Is to Enter into the Possibility of an Operational Oneness with God –
I Cor 6:17; I Jo 4:17

- Once we receive God's love, we are free to release God's love – I Jo 4:9-17; I Jo 3:16-17

TRUE LOVE IS HELPFUL – I Cor 13:4

- God's love acts patiently – II Pet 3:9,15

...we learn to love patiently by faith that God is in control – Ecc 3:1; Ps 31:15; Is 33:6

...we learn to love patiently by faith that God is actively working – Ecc 3:11; Jer 18:3; Ro 8:29; Is 40:31

- God's love acts kindly – I Cor 13:4

...we learn to love kindly by faith that we are rooted and grounded in God's reality – Eph 3:17-19; Jo 7:24

...we learn to love kindly by faith when we make it as easy as possible for others to change – Ro 2:4; Eph 4:19

TRUE LOVE IS HUMBLE – I Cor 13:4

- God's love does not flow out of self-directed pride – Is 14:13-14; Ez 28:16; I Pet 5:5

...we learn to love humbly by faith when we are willing to go low (not high) – Ja 4:10; Phil 2:3-8; Matt 11:29

...we learn to love humbly by faith in a willingness to infuse the blessedness of Christ into the moment – Heb 7:7

...we learn to love humbly by faith in a readiness to unleash the servant love of Christ – Jo 13:3-5,12-17

TRUE LOVE IS HEROIC – I Cor 13:5

- God's love does not put itself first – Ro 15:3

...it courageously lays down its own concerns and takes up the concerns of others – Phil 2:6-7; Jo 17:19

...anything less is "unbecoming" – Col 3:17

...we learn to love heroically by faith as we repent of "me first!" – Ga 5:13

...we learn to love heroically by faith when we "put on" only what "suits" Christ – Eph 4:24; Col 3:12-14

...we learn to love heroically by faith when we withhold no good thing from one in need – Ro 8:32; I Jo 3:17

GOD'S HELPFUL, HUMBLE, HEROIC LOVE NEVER FAILS – I Cor 13:8

...and is never a burden to Christ in me – Ga 2:20; I Jo 5:3