

9-26-99 Bible words **Prepare Way Love MORE EXCELLENT WAY**
Regarding HOW to love God, love others: to follow the way of Christian love!

- Jesus: John 14:6 "I am the **way**, and the truth, and the life."
Isaiah 40:3 and Luke 3:4: "...**prepare the way** of the Lord..."
Acts 9:2 "...if he found any who belonged to the **Way**..."
Acts 16:17 "...who proclaim to you a **way** of salvation."
Acts 18:26 "...they took him aside and explained the **Way** of God to him..."
St. Paul: Acts 24:14 "...according to the **Way**..."
I Corinthians 12:31 "... I will show you a still more excellent **way**..."
Hebrews 10:20 "...by the new and living **way** that he opened for us..."

I Cor 12:31: "But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent WAY."

What is the gift? The Gift of Christian Love

What is the Way? The Way of Christian Love

What is Christian love? Outlined in I Cor 12:31, often called "The Love Chapter"

Follow the unity of I Cor 12:31 through I Cor 14:1; **Add** Galatians 5:22; **follow** the Spiritual Practice

I Cor 13: The Christian Love Chapter: human freedom through loving service of others/Jesus

- v1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- v2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
- v3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.
- v4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant
- v5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
- v6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
- v7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- v8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
- v9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;
- v10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.
- v11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.
- v12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know you fully, even as I have been fully known.
- v13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and **the greatest of these is love.**

I Cor 14:1: "Pursue **love** and strive for the spiritual gifts...." of discipleship.

Galatians 5:22 discipleship is to accept that "...the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control" and act on it.

Discipleship is the safest way to fearlessly engage the human quest for freedom & liberty.

Spiritual Practice: when in a quandry, negative attitude, angry, or fearful, (1) pause, (2) breathe deeply, slowly, and (3) pray: "Help me feel your love, Lord, help me respond with love."

St. Luke Confirmation Class, Peter J. Jessen, 9-26-99