

Love Perseveres
(I Corinthians 13:7-8)

Love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...." Such a wonderful sentiment, isn't it? We love the idea that there are people out there like this, we're just not sure we want to be that kind of person! Why not? We intuitively know there is a price to pay, it's going to be inconvenient and costly, there's likely to be some suffering involved. Yet, in the "all things" of life (note the four "alls") we come to learn and know that there is "never" (v8) anything too much for the love of God.

Love Bears and Believes (I Pet 2:24; 4:8; James 5:20)

Love does not merely ignore, tolerate or resign itself to anything. It supports, protects, helps carry the load - even when, especially when another is in the wrong. The covering love of God is already true for all His children inwardly and eternally. We abide in an unassailable refuge of security and safety. But until it is outwardly so (heaven!) we are to cover one another in the persevering love of God. The love that makes room for the faults of others, creates a safe place for people to bring their humanity, provides a refuge in the time of a storm, protects from further injury and corruption. (See John 8:1-11) This kind of covering love communicates trust. It never loses faith in the power of love to overcome evil and cast out the fear in others that keeps them self-absorbed. When we, through love, believe in people who can't believe in themselves any longer, we issue them a powerful invitation to step into the life changing love of God.

Love Endures and Hopes (Hebrews 12:2; John 13:1)

Jesus' tormentors attacked Him, taunted him, betrayed Him, tortured Him, crucified Him, yet His love endured - "He loved them to the end" (Jo 13:1). Others may taunt and torture and crucify, but never CONQUER love! It stands fast in the face of a withering assault, it presses on in battle when it would be easier to quit and run. Feelings may wane, thoughts may vary - but love never fails. The dominant image of such love is the cross of Christ - the ultimate demonstration of enduring love. However, every time we go the second mile, forgive seventy times seven, pray for our persecutors, bless our adversaries we exhibit enduring love. Enduring love communicates hope - a passion for what is possible when Christ and His love are present (Matt 19:26). No one is too much for His love. It is never too late as long as He and His love are present. When His love endures in and through us, we never fail!



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GREETINGS

I guess most of us at one time or another wonder what we would do if an oppressive political regime would try and force us to renounce our faith. Would we stand alone and confess Christ, even though costly? Perhaps we imagine whether or not, like Job, we would serve God "for nothing" - after all the "blessings" disappear. Hopefully, we won't have to find out!

What I do know is that we count your encouragement and support to be of utmost value. Your notes and gifts, your expressions of "coming alongside" us in ministry hearten and inspire us in ways we find it difficult to sometimes say. I am grateful we do not do this alone, thankful for the many blessings of which you are foremost.

We take seriously your participation with us in this journey. We treasure your faithfulness and highly value the gift of yourselves "to the Lord and to us by the will of God" (II Cor 8:5). Thank you!

One In Christ, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALENDAR

JUNE

2,9,16,30 CCF
11 Alachua Study
22-23 Bradenton, FL (941-704-7473)

JULY

26-28 Bar Harbor, ME

SEPTEMBER

15-20 Almonte, CO
27-29 Binghamton, NY

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-  *Prayer & Financial Support*
-  *Personal encouragement*
-  *Pastor search for CCF*
-  *His flow of enduring love*

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