

THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY
"The Victory and Value of Love" – I Cor 12:31-14:1

No one can stop us from loving them with the love of Christ! – I Cor 13:7,8

The Value of Love:

- Spiritual "math": $5 > 100$ or $100 > 10,000$ – Lev 26:8; $1 > 1,000$ or $2 > 10,000$ – Deut 32:30;
 $1 = 365,000$ or $365,000 = 1$ – II Pet 3:8; $1 + 1 = 1$ – I Cor 6:17
...spiritual gifts – love = 0; miraculous works – love = 0; charity – love = 0 – I Cor 13:1-3
- Without love our "standard" is all wrong – I Cor 13:1-3
...without love we end up bankrupt – I Cor 13:3
- Without love our "story" is all wrong – I Cor 13:8-10
...in God's story, love always has the supremacy – Jer 31:3; Deut 7:7-8; Ga 5:23; Col 3:14

The Victory of Love:

- Seen most clearly in the Saving Life of Christ – Jo 13:1; Ro 5:8-10,17; I Jo 4:9
...Jesus Christ is more than our model, He is our means of loving – I Cor 6:17; Ga 2:20; I Jo 4:7
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves once and for all that "love never fails" – I Cor 13:8
...none of the world's negatives can "negate" Christ and His love – Ro 8:31-39

Making Love Visible:

- In Christ, we are free to make it our objective to love – I Jo 4:18
...we may look out for the interests of others since Christ is looking out for ours – Phil 2:3,4
...we pursue love to express it – I Cor 14:1
- The love of God cannot be used by evil for its purposes – I Jo 4:8; I Cor 13:8
...living by the value and victory of Christ's love makes Him "visible" – I Jo 4:4; II Cor 2:14
- We are learning to run our "options" through the grid of His character – I Cor 13:4-8; Ro 12:10-21