

Perfecting Love: Love Endures

“Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing,
but to turn it into glory.”

William Barclay (1907–1978)

Introduction: A Test of Love John 21:15-17

In this passage Jesus tests Peter’s love and reveals what Peter and we are to do as a result of loving Jesus. Here are four behaviors of love that reveal the love of God in us:

A. Love **bears** all things

1. The Greek word can also be translated; to cover, protect, support, bear, sustain and contain.
2. Love never protects sin but does protect the sinner.
3. Love bears; it does not bare.
4. Love covers a multitude of sins. *1 Pet 4:8; Pro 10:12; 17:9*
5. Love and atonement (covering). *Lev 16:14; Rom 3:25-26; Heb 2:17; 1 John 2:2*
6. “A person under the influence of this love never makes the sins, follies, faults, or imperfections of any man, the subject either of censure or conversation. He covers them as far as he can; and if alone privy to them, he retains the knowledge of them in his own bosom as far as he ought.” *Adam Clark*

B. Love **believes** all things

1. Love is not suspicious or cynical.
2. When love does bear a wrong it also believes in the best outcome for the one who has done the wrong.
3. Job’s friends did not have this quality of love. *Job 21:27*
4. Love is a safe harbor that seeks restoration. *Gal 6:1*

C. Love **hopes** all things

1. Love holds on to hope.
2. As long as God’s grace is operative human failure is never final.
3. God never took Israel’s failure as final.
4. Jesus did not take Peter’s failure as final.
5. The rope of love’s hope has no end.
6. As long as there is life, love does not lose hope.

E. Love **endures** all things

1. The Greek word is a military term used of an army’s holding a vital position at all cost. A form of the word is also translated ‘patience’ in *James 1:3-4*.
2. Love stands against overwhelming opposition and refuses to stop bearing or stop believing or stop hoping.
3. Love will NOT stop loving because love **NEVER fails!**

Love bears what otherwise is unbearable

Believes what otherwise is unbelievable

Hopes in what otherwise is hopeless

Endures when anything less than love would give up



Put on Love

But above all these things
put on love, which is the
bond of perfection. **Col 3:14**

1Co 12:31

But earnestly desire the best
gifts. And yet I show you
a more excellent way.

1 Cor 13:1-8

1 Though I speak with the
tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love, I have become
sounding brass or a clanging
cymbal.

2 And though I have *the gift*
of prophecy, and understand all
mysteries and all knowledge,
and though I have all faith, so
that I could remove mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my
goods to feed *the poor*, and
though I give my body to be
burned, but have not love, it
profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient [*long*
suffering] and is kind; love does
not envy; love does not parade
itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely,
does not seek its own, is not
provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in
iniquity, but rejoices in the
truth;

7 **bears all things, be-**
lieves all things, hopes all
things, endures all things.

8 **Love never fails.** But
whether *there are* prophecies,
they will fail; whether *there are*
tongues, they will cease;
whether *there is* knowledge, it
will vanish away.