



Love is more important to God than ALL the spiritual gifts exercised in the church body.

Great faith, acts of dedication or sacrifice, and miracle-working power / have little effect without love.

Love makes our 'actions and gifts' useful, fruitful and lasting.

Love is our common ground / and love is available to everyone.

1 John 4:7-11

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

*In the book of 1 Corinthians, chapters 12-14 the Apostle Paul gives a summary on what God's love really is: In chapter 12 Paul gave evidence of the Corinthians *lack of love* in the utilization of spiritual gifts, chapter 13 he *defines* what real love looks like, and in chapter 14 he *shows* how love works.

One of the *greatest qualities* of God's Love is in 1 Corinthians 13:5b where it says; Love, does not seek its own or the NLT says; Love does not demand its own way.

Love looks out for others, seeks their best interests and willingly gives up its own for the sake of another.

Does this sound familiar? It should.

It is the picture of the love / that God has for every one of us / who are heirs of Christ Jesus.

Despite our sins, fears, weaknesses and limitations; we are *forever* and unconditionally loved for Jesus' sake.

Through Him, we've been *given* a place at the king's table.

We have *become* God's beloved people – because Love, *does not* seek its own, but rather / the good of others.

1 Corinthians 10:24 says; don't think only of your own good.

Think of other Christians / and what is best for them.

So, Christians are to use their freedoms, not only for their own good, but to think of other Christians and what is best for them.

As Paul had earlier said in chapter 8, all Christians, free in Christ, should humbly set aside their freedoms in order to win more people for the Kingdom.