

A Fresh Perspective

Description

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1 Corinthians 13:1-13

After years of reading 1 Corinthians 13, often called the “Love Chapter,” we can easily lose sight of its powerful message. But the NIV translation gives us a fresh perspective on this familiar passage. The word in verse 7 actually means protects. If we love someone in the way Paul describes, we will protect that person’s reputation.

Often when we are in conflict with another Christian, we tell others about the conflict by saying, “I love her in Christ, but listen to what she did!” Far from protecting this person, such talk actively tears down her reputation. When we do this, we are not loving.

Certainly we cannot muster up the kind of love Paul describes with our own power, yet as we read in the beginning of today’s scripture, all our religious efforts and spiritual gifts are meaningless unless accompanied by this love, the love Christ himself demonstrated. Our only hope of loving in this way is “through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 7:25).

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