

Love Bears All Things

I Corinthians 13:6

Here there are four phrases describing love: *Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things*. We will break down each of these characteristics of love separately beginning with the first one. What does it mean for you, a person known for your love, to “bear” all things? Let’s take a look.

I. To “bear all things” I cover the faults and wrongs of the one I love.

This is what the word “bear” means. It is the Greek word *stego* and means to cover or hide. If you were here last week for “love rejoices in the truth” you might wish to object here. “Alethia” means “to not hide” and we rejoice in not hiding. Which is it? Do we hide or not?

A. Love means I am open about my faults, but I cover the faults of others.

This is what Peter meant when he says “*Love covers a multitude of sins*” (I Pet. 4:8).

We are not ashamed to reveal our faults, our failures, our wrongs, our past, our sins.

Jesus Christ has removed the guilt we feel and given us the love we need; we are open.

But we get no joy or satisfaction pointing out weaknesses and failures in those we love.

B. As a Christians, I am free to discuss the faults of people with them, but not about them.

Probably the best analogy of this would be the sacredness of the marriage bedroom.

What happens in the bedroom is between two lovers, not to be shared with others.

When the person with the issue properly understands grace, he or she will be truthful.

II. To “bear all things” means I protect the honor and dignity of the one I love.

This is the second variation of the meaning to the word “stego” – to protect and defend.

Aristotle used this word for a “watertight” ship that deflected and warded off saltwater.

It was also used by the ancients to describe a panther skin that covered you like a raincoat.

The person who was protected (stego) had nothing that could get in to damage him or her.

A. The most loving thing you could do for your spouse is to defend his/her honor.

Some parents think that you show your kids love by siding with them against a spouse.

Not so. The child is secure when the child knows that mom and dad “bear all things.”

B. Defending one’s own honor is selfish but defending a loved one’s honor is Christian.

This is what the Bible means when it says “Love bears all things.” I will protect you.

We, of course, usually get this in reverse. We protect ourselves by attacking others.

The secret to real success is protecting others and leaving ourselves open to attack.

C. No concern for what others think of another person is a sign there is no love.

But remember, the mark of genuine Christianity is love for the people we know. So I

ask all of us this question: Do we spend more time talking about others or to others?

III. To “bear all things” means I endure the sufferings caused by the sin of the one I love.

The word “stego” is used only 4 times in the NT (I Cor. 13:7; I Th. 3:1, 5 and I Cor. 9:12).

In It is translated “endure” in all but here, and in some translations (Zurich) it is here too.

You don’t give up on those people you love. You remain faithful to that one who has failed.

This “stego” love is exactly what God gives us. He covers our sin. He protects. He’s faithful.

“The proof of love is its capacity to suffer for the object of its affection.”