

“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...” (2 Peter 1:21)



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WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Where We Meet

1017 S. 2nd St. (Old Hwy. 367)
Cabot, AR 72023

When We Meet

Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am
Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
Kelly Kendall
Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale



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Being Clothed With Love, 3

by Alex Hale

[Continued from last week]

(10) **Love does not rejoice in iniquity.** Love takes no delight in sin and will refuse to be a part of it. Furthermore, love will take no delight in another's despair which might come as a result of their sin. In other words, love does not delight in the fall of another.

(11) **Love ... rejoices in the truth.** This is referring to the truth of God's commandments (i.e. the gospel). We understand that the gospel carries with it a certain doctrine (e.g. the plan of salvation/one's entry into Christ; the organization, worship, and work of the church; etc). At the same time, there is an ethical (practical) side: obedience to the gospel demands holiness and righteousness (1 Pet 1:14-16). If we love someone, we will be pleased, even overjoyed, when he or she is found walking in truth. John wrote, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4). If we love someone, we "root for them" to do what is right.

(12) **Love bears all things.** This is to take someone's load. Love is active, helping others (Gal 6:1). To do this at times involves self-sacrifice.

(13) **Love believes all things.** In the absence of evidence to the contrary, love believes the best about others. Contrast this with "evil surmisings" (1 Tim 6:4). Which characterizes us?

(14) **Love hopes all things.** To hope for the best again is not to find pleasure in one's wickedness.

(15) **Love endures all things.** This is to persevere in spite of circumstances.

(16) **Love never fails.** The nature of love is permanent, or lasting. Paul tells the Corinthians that other things (i.e. the things they were valuing) would fade and fail, but not love. He explains the reason that the miraculous gifts existed, which was to give guidance to a world and a church to whom the word had not yet been fully revealed. He tells the Corinthians that at some point miraculous gifts would cease because they would no longer be needed (1 Cor 13:8-10). In addition, though, to love being better than tongues or prophecy, Paul also says that love is better than the virtues of hope and faith (1 Cor 13:13). The reason for this is simple: love lasts (Song of Sol 8:6). There will come a time when faith ceases because in heaven it will be unnecessary – our faith will become sight (Heb 11:1). Though hope is what often keeps us going, it too will be unneeded in heaven – we will not be able to hope for that which we possess there (Rom 8:24).

However, in heaven, love will still be around, and it will be a perfected love. Let us work each day to develop the kind of love that God wants us to have for Him and for the people in our lives. This love is not based on a feeling, nor conditions that another person must meet. Rather, it is an unconditional care and concern that puts others ahead of ourselves, always seeking to act in their best interests.