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**"Children of God"**

by Mark Legendre

WHAT AN AMAZING THING! We are "children of God"! It is our Father in Heaven who has created this vast universe in which we live. It is our Father who puts breath within our mortal bodies that we might live in His world for a while. Jesus said in Luke 6:35 that we are "children of the Highest" for there is no one higher than our Father in Heaven. According to Galatians 3:26-27, we are "children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of us that were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." It is indeed a wonderful blessing to be a "child of God". I just hope and pray that we will never take this blessing for granted. Most of the world will never know what it is like to be a part of the family of God. And so, if you are a "child of God," then please don't throw it away by becoming unfaithful to the Father in Heaven and thereby lose your hope of seeing Him "face to face" someday!

As wonderful as it is to be a "child of God" right now, 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1-3 tells us it even gets better. For when our Saviour appears, John says "we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." Don't ever therefore take being a "child of God" for granted! For when and if you make it to Heaven, then you will surely be glad that you made that important step in life to become a part of the family of God.

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**The Greatest of These is Love**

by Mark Legendre

The kind of love described here is an embodiment of all the virtues, the kind of love all husbands and wives should give to each other, and the kind both should give to their children. These verses so often and appropriately read at weddings come from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

*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 and have not love, I am nothing.*

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

*Love suffereth long and is kind; love envieth not, love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*

*Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil,*

*Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.*

*Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

*Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

*For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*

*But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put away childish things.*

*For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: not I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

*And not abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of this is LOVE.*

Now, you might be wondering why Paul would go to such lengths talking about LOVE in the middle chapter of 3 chapters dealing with "spiritual gifts." It is because the Corinthian Christians were exercising these gifts without showing love for one another. He told them that the spiritual gifts were only temporary in nature but that love was something that would last for all times. And so they needed to improve themselves in the area of "brotherly love."

Paul gives a beautiful description of the true nature of LOVE in this chapter. Let's take a closer look at what he says and see if we as Christians today are truly loving the way we should.

Paul says that love is "longsuffering;" we say we love someone but we seem to have very little patience with that person a lot of times. He says that love is "kind;" but we treat people that we say we love with anything but kindness. Paul says that love doesn't "envy;" and yet we are jealous of what other people have that we don't have and wish that we had it rather than them, and yet we say that we love them. "Love vaunteth not itself" which simply means that love does not brag; have you ever bragged about yourself in order to make yourself look good and someone else look bad? Paul says that love is not "arrogant;" do we as husbands ever put our wives down and try to make them look stupid in an effort to make ourselves look smart? Paul says that love does not act "unseemly;" do we ever treat people we are supposed to love without respect? "Love seeketh not her own;" in other words love is not SELFISH and yet how often do we put the needs of those we say we love ahead of our own? "Love is not easily provoked;" and yet how quickly we lose our tempers with those that we are supposed to love. "Love thinketh no evil" means that love doesn't hold a grudge; in other words LOVE IS FORGIVING!

Paul says more but I think we get the point. The kind of love Paul describes in these verses indeed "never fails." Marriages fail, churches split, friendships end, and many other problems arise simply because we do not practice the kind of love that Paul describes here.

ARE YOU LOVING OTHERS AS YOU SHOULD?