

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
July | Aug | Sept 2026

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



A PORTRAIT OF LOVE

**Lesson 7 Study Notes[ABSG-3-2026]
August 8-14**



Disclaimer

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. While written with care and in harmony with Scripture, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the Spirit of Prophecy, they are not an official publication of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Reader is encouraged to rely first on the Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the Spirit of Prophecy writings.

Lesson 7 [August 8-14]: Understanding the Memory Text

*"And now these three remain: **faith**, **hope** and **love**. But the **greatest** of these is **love**." – 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)*

- **Faith**, **hope**, and **love** are **lasting qualities** of a **Christian life**.
- They are more important than **spiritual abilities** that may attract attention.
- The **gifts of the Holy Spirit** are given to **serve God's people** and **build up His church**.
- But **love** must **guide** the use of every gift.
- The memory text brings the **main message** of this week's study together.

"And now these three remain..."

- These words point to **faith**, **hope**, and **love** as **enduring Christian qualities**.
- The gifts mentioned earlier in this passage have **important purposes**.
- However, some of these gifts will **not continue forever**.
- They will fulfil their purpose when **God's people** see **Christ face to face**.
- **Faith** will give way to **sight** when we see what we now believe.
- **Hope** will become **reality** when **God's promises** are fully fulfilled.
- **Love** will **remain** because it reflects **God's own character**.

Faith, Hope and Love

- **Faith** means **trusting God** and **believing His promises**.
- **Hope** means **confidently looking forward** to the fulfilment of those promises.
- **Love** means **seeking the good** of **God** and others through our words and actions.
- These qualities **work together** in the **Christian life**.
- **Faith** helps us **trust God**.
- **Hope** keeps us looking forward to **His promises**.
- **Love** shapes how we **treat others**.

"But the greatest of these is love"

- **Love** is the greatest because it reflects the **character of God**.
- It is not merely a **feeling**.
- It is shown through **patience**, **kindness**, **humility**, **forgiveness**, and **selfless service**.
- The **gifts of the Spirit** are valuable only when they are used in **love**.
- Without **love**, even impressive spiritual gifts can become a source of **pride** or **division**.
- With **love**, our gifts become **instruments** for **strengthening God's people**.
- **Love** therefore gives the **right purpose** to every gift **God** gives.

What This Means for You

- **Trust God** even when you cannot see the whole path ahead.
- Hold firmly to the **hope** found in **God's promises**.
- Let **Christ's love** guide the way you use your abilities.
- Do not seek spiritual gifts for **recognition** or **personal importance**.
- Use whatever **God** has given you to **strengthen others** and **build up His church**.
- Let your gifts be guided by the **love of Christ**.

A Final Thought

- **Faith** helps us **trust God**.
- **Hope** keeps us looking toward **His promises**.
- **Love** makes our lives reflect the **character of Christ**.
- Spiritual gifts have an **important purpose** in **God's work**.
- But **love** must remain at the **centre** of their use.
- The greatest evidence of **Christian maturity** is not the gift we possess.
- It is the **Christlike love** we show to others.

August 8: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- **Love** is **essential** to the **Christian life** and must **guide** everything we do.
- **Spiritual gifts** have value, but without **love** they accomplish nothing lasting.
- True **love** is shown through **patience**, **kindness**, **forgiveness**, **hope**, and **endurance**.
- **Love** does not **envy**, **boast**, become **proud**, **seek its own way**, or **keep a record of wrongs**.
- **Love** is more than a **feeling**; it is seen in our **words**, **choices**, and **actions**.
- **Jesus** gives us the **perfect picture** of the love described in **1 Corinthians 13**.
- **Christ's love** shows us how to treat others with **patience**, **kindness**, **grace**, and **compassion**.
- **Christian maturity** is seen not only in what we know or can do, but in **how we love**.
- **Faith**, **hope**, and **love** belong at the **heart** of the **Christian life**.
- **Love** is the greatest because it reflects **God's character** and will **never end**.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will understand why **love** is **essential** and why even **spiritual gifts** have no lasting value when they are not guided by **love**.

Monday: We will discover what **genuine love** looks like through **patience**, **kindness**, **forgiveness**, **hope**, and **endurance**.

Tuesday: We will examine the attitudes and actions that **love refuses** to produce, including **envy**, **pride**, **anger**, **selfishness**, and **keeping a record of wrongs**.

Wednesday: We will see how the **life of Jesus** gives us the **perfect picture** of the love described in **1 Corinthians 13**.

Thursday: We will learn why **faith**, **hope**, and **love** remain **central** to the **Christian life**, and why **love** is the **greatest** of them all.

Let us study this week and discover how **Christ's love** can **transform** our lives and the way we **treat others**.

August 9: Sunday - The Essentialness of Love

Read: 1 Corinthians 13; Matthew 24:12

Summary

- Christian life is **not measured** only by what we **know**, what we can **do**, or what **gifts** we have.
- Even great **gifts** lose their **value** when **love** is missing.
- The **love Paul** describes comes from **God** and changes how we **think, feel, speak, and act**.
- This love is not merely an **emotion**. It is a daily **choice** to seek what is **good** for **God** and for **others**.
- It teaches us to be **patient** when people test us and **kind** when they do not treat us well.
- It keeps us from becoming **proud, jealous, rude**, easily **angered**, or focused only on our own **interests**.
- It also helps us **forgive** others instead of **remembering** their mistakes.
- **Jesus** showed the **greatest** example of this love by **giving** Himself for people who did not **deserve** it.
- **Jesus** warned that as **evil** increases, the **love** of many will **grow** cold.
- We can see this **danger** when **selfishness, anger, hatred, and indifference** replace love in our **homes** and **churches**.
- **God** calls us to keep our love **alive** by **staying** close to Christ and allowing His **Spirit** to **work** in us.
- A **kind** word, a **patient** response, or a simple act of **care** can give **hope** to someone who is **struggling**.
- Our **love** can become the **clearest** way others see the **character** of Christ.

Question

- How can we keep **God's** love alive in our **lives**?

Answer

- We keep **God's** love **alive** by **staying** close to Christ and allowing His **Spirit** to **shape** how we **treat** others.

Reflection

- Who around me may need to **experience** God's love through me **today**?

Takeaway

- Let **Christ's** love **shape** your actions so others can **experience** His love through you.

August 10: Monday - What Love Does

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4–7; Galatians 5:22–23

Summary

- **Scripture** helps us **recognize true love** by showing us **what it does**.
- **Love** stays **patient** when people **disappoint** us or test our patience.
- **Love** responds with **kindness** even when kindness is not returned.
- **Love** can **celebrate** another person's success without feeling **jealous**.
- **Love** does not **abandon** people simply because a relationship becomes **difficult**.
- **Love** gives people **room** to explain themselves instead of quickly **assuming** the worst.
- **Love** keeps **looking** for something **good** when circumstances seem **hopeless**.
- **Love** remains **faithful** when life brings **pain, pressure, or disappointment**.
- These **qualities** show that **love** is more than a **feeling** that comes and goes.
- **True Christian love** becomes **visible** through the **choices** we make every day.
- We may **struggle** to love this way because some situations and people are **genuinely difficult**.
- The **Holy Spirit** helps us **develop** this kind of love as we **grow closer** to **Christ**.
- The qualities Paul describes also **reflect** the **fruit** that the **Holy Spirit** produces in a believer's life.
- When this **love** grows in us, it **changes** how we **speak, forgive, respond, and treat** people.

Question

- How can people see **God's love** in us?

Answer

- People see **God's love** when we treat them with **patience, kindness, understanding, hope, and endurance**.

Reflection

- How would my **relationships** change if I allowed the **Holy Spirit** to **shape** my love?

Takeaway

- Let the **Holy Spirit** make your love **visible** through your **everyday choices**.

August 11: Tuesday - What Love Does Not Do

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4–7; 8:1; 10:24

Summary

- The Bible not only tells us what love does; it also shows us what love does not do.
- Love does not become jealous when another person receives a gift, succeeds, or receives recognition.
- Love does not boast about its abilities, achievements, knowledge, or spiritual gifts.
- Love does not become proud because of position, success, or what we know about God.
- Love does not treat others with rude, disrespectful, or dishonorable behavior.
- Love does not insist on getting its own way when doing so could hurt another person's faith or well-being.
- Love is not easily provoked when people say or do things that upset us.
- Love does not keep a record of past wrongs so that they can be brought up again and again.
- Instead, love chooses forgiveness and seeks healing in relationships.
- Love does not celebrate when someone fails, falls into sin, or experiences trouble.
- Love seeks the good of others and desires to see them restored and strengthened.
- These qualities show that Christlike love is not centered on self-interest.
- The Christian life calls us to consider the needs of others instead of always protecting our own comfort, rights, or preferences.
- The Holy Spirit helps us replace jealousy with gratitude, pride with humility, anger with patience, and resentment with forgiveness.
- When this kind of love shapes our lives, it can bring peace where selfishness, pride, anger, and resentment have created division.

Question

- What does love refuse to do?

Answer

- Love refuses to be jealous, proud, rude, selfish, easily angered, unforgiving, or pleased by another person's wrongdoing.

Reflection

- Which attitude in my life needs to be replaced by Christlike love?

Takeaway

- Real love is seen not only in what we do, but also in what we choose not to do.

August 12: Wednesday - A Portrait of Jesus

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4–7; John 13:1, 34; 15:9, 12; 1 Timothy 1:16; 1 John 3:16; 4:7–12, 19–21

Summary

- The **love** described in **1 Corinthians 13** becomes **clearer** when we look at the **life of Jesus**.
- **Jesus** did not merely **teach** about love; He **demonstrated** it through the way He **treated** people and **lived** each day.
- He was **patient** with people who were **weak**, **confused**, and **slow to understand**.
- He showed **kindness** even when others did not **deserve** it.
- **Jesus** loved **truth** and found **joy** in doing His **Father's will**.
- He **endured rejection**, **suffering**, and the **Cross** because of His **love** for humanity.
- **Jesus** did not **give up** on people because of their **past mistakes**.
- He saw what people could **become** when they allowed **God's grace** to **work** in their lives.
- His **love** gives **hope** to those who feel **unworthy**, **broken**, or **far from God**.
- The **Cross** reveals the **greatest expression** of **God's selfless love** for humanity.
- **Jesus** therefore gives us more than a **definition** of love. He gives us a **living picture** of what true love looks like.
- When we study His **life**, we see **patience**, **kindness**, **forgiveness**, **truth**, **humility**, and **endurance** working together.
- We may not **perfectly** reflect this love, but **Christ** can **teach** us to love more like Him.
- His **example challenges** us to show **Christlike love** at **home**, at **church**, at **school**, at **work**, and in our **communities**.

Question

- What does **Jesus** teach us about **true love**?

Answer

- **Jesus** shows that true love is **patient**, **kind**, **truthful**, **forgiving**, **enduring**, and **willing** to put others before self.

Reflection

- If someone watched how I **treat** others today, would they see something of **Jesus' love**?

Takeaway

- The best way to **learn** true love is to keep **looking at Jesus** and let His love **change** the way we **treat** others.

August 13: Thursday - Faith, Hope and Love

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:8, 10, 12–13; Romans 8:24; 1 John 4:8

Summary

- **God** calls us to make the **love** of **Jesus** **visible** in the way we **live**.
- The Christians in **Corinth** struggled with **pride**, **selfishness**, **jealousy**, and other attitudes that **damaged** their relationships.
- We can face the same **struggles** when we **place** ourselves above others.
- **Christlike love** changes not only what we **feel** but also how we **treat** people.
- **Spiritual gifts** are **valuable** because **God** uses them to **bless** His people and **advance** His work.
- However, these gifts will **not continue** forever in their present form.
- They will **reach** their purpose when **God's plan** for His people is fully accomplished.
- **Faith** is **important** because it helps us **trust** **God** when we cannot yet see the whole picture.
- **Hope** is important because it keeps us **looking forward** to the fulfilment of **God's promises**.
- When **Christ** returns, what we now **believe** by faith will become a **reality** before our eyes.
- The **hope** we carry today will become the **joy** of being with **Christ** forever.
- **Love** is **different** because it will **never pass away**.
- **Love** will remain because it reflects the very **character** of **God**.
- The words "**God is love**" show us that **God's love** is not temporary or uncertain.
- This is **good news** because we can **trust** the heart of the **God** who loves us.
- Until **Jesus** comes, **faith**, **hope**, and **love** should **shape** our choices, relationships, and service.
- Among these three, **love** is **greatest** because it will **remain** forever.

Question

- Why should **faith**, **hope**, and **love** shape my life?

Answer

- **Faith** helps me **trust** God, **hope** keeps me **looking** toward His promises, and **love** helps me **reflect** His character to others.

Reflection

- What would **change** in my life if **God's love** became the strongest **influence** in my thoughts and actions?

Takeaway

- Keep your **faith** in God, hold firmly to His **promises**, and let His **everlasting love** be seen in your life.

August 14: Friday - Further Thought

Read: The Need of Love – The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, August 28, 1888, pp. 545–546; The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 318–319; Lift Him Up, p. 134; Education, p. 114

Summary

- A high **religious profession** means **little** when **love** for **God** and others is **missing**.
- Even great **faith**, **sacrifice**, **generosity**, and **spiritual gifts** cannot replace **genuine love**.
- **Love** is greater than a list of Christian qualities because it is **revealed** through the **whole life**.
- To **pursue love** means to make **Christlike love** a **deliberate choice** every day.
- **Love** should be seen in the way we **think**, **speak**, **serve**, **forgive**, and **treat** others.
- The **greatest need** in Christian work is not more words but **love** for people who are **hurting** and **lost**.
- **Christ's love** must **fill** our hearts before it can truly **bless** the lives of others.
- This love can **reach** a wounded heart and become an **instrument of healing**.
- The same love can help **remove** the **selfishness** and **division** that weaken the church.
- **Love** gives every spiritual gift its **right purpose** because gifts should always **bless** others rather than **exalt self**.

Question

- What does it mean to **pursue love** in my daily life?

Answer

- It means allowing **Christ's love** to **control** my motives and **shape** the way I **treat** others.

Reflection

- Is there someone who needs to **experience Christ's healing love** through me?

Takeaway

- **Pursue love** every day, because the love that flows from **Christ** can **heal** wounded hearts and bring **unity** to His people.