

i.e., by association or companionship,¹²⁸ process,¹²⁹ resemblance,¹³⁰ possession,¹³¹ instrumentality,¹³² and addition¹³³) and from *chairō*, a primary verb meaning to be cheerful, happy, well off; “being glad.” It is related to the concept of being filled up with grace, or *charis*, which is used 128 times in the New Testament and means indicated favor on the part of the Giver without expectation of return and thanks. This in turn leads to rejoicing on the part of the receiver; grace removes guilt.¹³⁴ Closely related to *charis* is mercy (*eleos*, which removes misery). *Sugchairō*, or rejoice, is found in six places in the Greek New Testament (Lk. 1:58; 15:6, 9; 1 Cor. 12:26; Phil. 2:17-18).

The Paths of Love

There are four paths in which love walks.¹³⁵ “Love bears all things” (1 Cor. 13:7). Bears, from *stegō*, means “to cover” and denotes a roof. *Stegō*, “to roof over,” or to “cover” with silence (endure patiently), in the scriptures means can forbear (two times), bear (one time), and suffer (one time). *Stegō* means primarily to protect or preserve by covering.¹³⁶ It means to

¹²⁸ Jn. 17:11, 21-22

¹²⁹ 2 Pet. 3:18

¹³⁰ 1 Jn. 3:2; 4:17

¹³¹ Christ possesses us, Eph. 1:14; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

¹³² Jn. 15:1-5; 1 Cor. 15:9-10; Eph. 2:8-10

¹³³ 2 Pet. 1:4-8

¹³⁴ Rom. 8:1

¹³⁵ Ps. 37:23; 1 Pet. 2:21; Job 14:16; 29:6; 31:4; Ps. 37:31; 85:13; 119:133; Prov. 16:9; Jer. 10:23; Rom 4:12; 2 Cor. 12:18

¹³⁶ Prov. 10:12; 17:9, 17; 25:2; 1 Pet. 4:8

keep off something which threatens to bear up against and so to endure; to bear or forbear.¹³⁷

The idea of supporting what is placed upon a thing is prominent in 1 Thessalonians 3:1, 5 and 1 Corinthians 13:7. Love is never quick-tempered.¹³⁸ The same word “bears” is translated “suffer” in 1 Corinthians 9:12, and “forbear” in 1 Thessalonians 3:1, 5. Love is like Issachar; it is willing (love is in the will) to be a burden-bearer for others;¹³⁹ it “believes all things;”¹⁴⁰ it is “trust;”¹⁴¹ and is “committed.” Committed in this sense is found in Galatians 2:7, *pisteuo*, meaning to have faith, dependence in and upon (to lean on entirely), or with respect to a Person (Christ) in all matters (i.e., credit is all to Christ). It means not just to believe, but also to be persuaded of, to place complete confidence in,¹⁴² and to trust, and signifies, in this sense of the word, reliance upon, not mere credence. It is translated “commit unto,” or commit to one’s trust (*pistikos*, trustworthy, (Rev. 5:9); genuine (truth vs. a lie); trustworthiness.

Love is not suspicious. It has confidence and looks¹⁴³ on others with the eyes of faith and grace. “Love hopes all things” (1 Cor. 13:7). “Hopes” comes from *elpizo* – “to expect,”¹⁴⁴ to

¹³⁷ 1 Cor. 9:12

¹³⁸ Prov. 22:24-25; 15:1-2; Eph. 4:26-27, 29-30

¹³⁹ Gen. 49:14-15; Phil. 2:3-8, 21

¹⁴⁰ 1 Cor. 13:7

¹⁴¹ 1 Thess. 2:4

¹⁴² Heb. 10:35-38; Ja. 1:3-6

¹⁴³ Heb. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:18; 5:7; Heb 11:1

¹⁴⁴ Ps. 62:5

confide,¹⁴⁵ to have confidence.¹⁴⁶ *Elpizo* is from *elpis*, meaning “to anticipate with pleasure,”¹⁴⁷ to have a “favorable and confident expectation, with a forward look¹⁴⁸ with assurance (Strong, page number).” It describes the anticipation of good.¹⁴⁹ Colossians 1:27 says, “Christ in you the hope of glory;” Christ is the Object upon which the “hope” is fixed¹⁵⁰ because of the Person and finished work of Christ.¹⁵¹

These Greek words speak of “trust” eighteen times, “hope” ten times, “hope for” two times, “things hoped for” one time (see “trust” in Proverbs 3:5-8). This cheerful smile of hope lights up the countenance of love. It “endures all things” (see “love bears all things”). Love “holds out” and is never weary of doing so. Christ is our example¹⁵² and Paul with Christ in him is one of love’s examples.¹⁵³

The Permanence of Love

“Love never fails” (1 Cor. 13:8, Love – *agape*, not “charity”). The word “fails” is from *exipto* and means “to fall, to fall away, to fade away, as when the stars fall from heaven¹⁵⁴ or as

¹⁴⁵ Heb. 4:15-16

¹⁴⁶ 1 Jn. 3:20-21; Heb. 10:35-36; Phil. 4:13, 19; Jos. 1:5; Heb. 13:5; Mt. 28:20

¹⁴⁷ Col. 1:27

¹⁴⁸ Heb. 12:2

¹⁴⁹ Titus 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:21

¹⁵⁰ Ps. 57:7; 108:1, “fixed” = “prepared”

¹⁵¹ Jn. 19:30, see also Heb. 1:2-3; Rev. 3:21; Rom. 8:37

¹⁵² Heb. 12:2-3

¹⁵³ 2 Cor. 3:2-6; 1 Cor. 4:15-16; 11:1; Phil. 4:7-9; 2 Tim. 2:10; Acts 20:24

¹⁵⁴ Mk. 13:25