

the truth of the Gospel only, but all truth. She recognizes truth as a blessed companion, helpful in the moral world, and making for the happiness and well-being of mankind. Every triumph of truth is felt by love to be a positive gain, a step advancing the race, bringing humanity nearer God. For this blessed consummation of maturity she with delight hails every victory over darkness, error, falsehood.

3. *Bears everything.* Love endures as the sailor the long voyage, or the watchman the long waiting, or the pilgrim the difficult, rugged pathway to the heights, or the soldier the hard blows of battle. The Christians were persecuted, tormented, maltreated, without just cause, and love's attitude toward all this was to be one of calm endurance. Love also endures all the scorn, hardness of heart, ignorance, which falls to the lot of that one seeking to bring salvation to a world of sinners. The rudeness of the world, like an adverse wind to the traveler, is received by love with patience. "Whatever love may encounter from others that is calculated to make it impatient, all this it bears; whatever can make it distrustful, all this it trusts for; whatever might serve to destroy hope in a neighbor, all this it hopes for; whatever might cause it to sink in weakness, beneath all this it holds its ground in firmness and endurance."

4. *Believes everything.* Love believes in all goodness; has faith in human nature, in God's goodness; does not fret and worry like sad pessimists, but has a wholesome healthy credence for all the bright sides of the dark pictures of earth; always sees "the light in the cloud."

5. *Hopes everything.* Love is spoken of here as actively hoping all things. Love is the spring of all moral goodness for the soul. Love hopes for the best in society and the universe. She loves a mighty heavenly Father, and, believing in him, hope is always cheering the soul onward to a realization of some better thing.

III. THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF LOVE.

1. *Enries not.* Wars have been caused in many instances by envy. Egypt wanted Palestine, Babylon was willing to fight for it. Germany desired Alsace and Lorraine, France resisted the envious claim. The United States looked with longing eyes on New Mexico and captured that country. Russia went to war with China for Manchuria. Love keeps the peace by not desiring another man's goods.

2. *Boasts not.* Love is beautiful in its simplicity and humility. Not the Uriah Heep, sinister, hypocritical humility of selfishness, but the

humility of the lily, the self-possession of one who desires to be a helper and not a hinderer in this world.

3. *Is not conceited.* There is no swelling of pride at one's own gifts and striving constantly to gain applause for these talents.

4. *Her conduct is not unbecoming.* Walking, talking, riding, sitting, public or private conduct is always seemly. She does nothing of which she need be ashamed. She is decorous and becoming.

5. *Not self-seeking.* She does not make herself the center of the universe and expect everything in heaven and earth to come her way and be helpful to her interests. There are some who are so presumptuous that they try to compel God to serve their ends here on this planet. They so act and so pray. Love seeks not its own pleasure or enjoyment, its own reputation or advancement or honorable position.

6. *Not easily provoked.* Does not dwell on its own wrongs; is not easily irritated. Her anger is kept down and not allowed to manifest itself at every petty grievance. She does not brood over the wrongs which have been inflicted upon her, just though her cause may be. She looks steadily at the blessings and not at the blunders of society.

7. *Taketh not account of evil.* She does not in a hopeless, melancholy way recount the evil things which are sins. She does not "boast in the triumphs of wrong." She has too large a heart to be glad when there is a downfall of the mighty, the person who has won success by wrong doing, and the change comes and they are humiliated or disgraced. She does not say, "I told you so;" the reversal of fortunes gives her no personal satisfaction. The accounts of desperadoes and scandalous news of wrongdoers in high society as served up by the morning newspapers have no charm for her.

IV. LOVE IS ETERNAL.

The flowers wither—"fail;" the leaves fall—"fail;" the limbs of the body grow weak and "fail." The original Greek word translated "faileth" has the meaning of ceasing to be, non-existence. Christian love never fails, never ceases to be. We are in a changing world. The great gifts of *prophecy shall come to naught*. When all the prophecies are fulfilled there will be no hidden mysteries, and hence no exercise for such gifts. The gift of tongues and earthly knowledge will not be needed in "the age to come," hence will be as nothing. Even the best and highest kind of knowledge is mixed with images of this sense-world and *imperfect*.