

Sept. 8, 2002

**Love Notes And Notes**  
**I Cor. 13: 4-7**  
**Dr. John A. Wells**

With all the challenges that surround our lives, the thing that usually gets us through is knowing someone loves and cares about us. Remembering to express love is a pretty big deal in our world; so let's take the time. I ran across a humorous story of a young man who poured out his heart to the girl of his dreams in the following note. "I would climb the highest mountain, swim the widest stream, cross the burning desert, die at the stake for you. P.S. I will see you on Saturday - if it doesn't rain."

Sometimes love does better on paper than in our actions. Most of us know what it feels like to be "in love," when "love hurts," when love "feels sincere." We even know when we are loved "for our own good." Anyway, love can be defined in a million ways, both by what it is and what it is not. Today I want to share with you the Bible's definition of love from a variety of translations. I am putting it in list form. It may be easier to see where we need to bolster our relationships that depend heavily on our love.

- 1. Love is very patient and kind.*
- 2. Love is never jealous or envious.*
- 3. Love is never boastful or proud.*
- 4. Love is never haughty, selfish, or rude.*
- 5. Love does not demand its own way.*
- 6. Love is not irritable or touchy.*
- 7. Love does not hold grudges.*
- 8. Love is never glad about injustice.*
- 9. Love rejoices when truth wins out.*
- 10. Love always protects and sustains.*
- 11. Love never loses faith.*
- 12. Love never ceases to hope.*
- 13. Love endures all hardships and rebuffs.*

God's greatest love letter to us was deciding to become one of us and dying for our failures in our place. He now grants us the power to love deeply and vulnerably in return. Thankfully, He doesn't just love us on Saturday, "if it doesn't rain." Take the opportunity this Valentine's Day to accept love and give the kind most needed for those you love. God may surprise you if you ask Him.