

**Loving Our Neighbors**  
**The Characteristics of Love**  
**Love Endures and Never Fails**

**I. The meaning of endurance**

A. Definition of Endurance

“to maintain a belief or course of action in the face of opposition, stand one’s ground, hold out, endure”  
Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed.) (1039). Chicago: University of Chicago Press

B. Examples of Paul’s use of Endurance

**2 Timothy 2:10** - For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

**Romans 12:9-13** - Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

**II. The challenge of endurance**

A. The obstacles to endurance

B. The undefined time of endurance

**Psalms 27:14** - Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.

“Love bears what otherwise is unbearable; it believes what otherwise is unbelievable; it hopes in what otherwise is hopeless; and it endures when anything less than love would give up. After love bears it believes. After it believes it hopes. After it hopes it endures. There is no “after” for endurance, for endurance is the unending climax of love.” John MacArthur

**III. The motivation for endurance**

A. The Gospel

**Colossians 1:11** - strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience;

**Colossians 1:13-14** - For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

B. Jesus’ Endurance

**Hebrews 12:1-3** - Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set

before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

C. The impact on people

**2 Timothy 2:10** - For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

D. The permanence of Love

**1 Corinthians 13:13** - But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.