I Corinthians 13:1-7
Love Surpasses

Introduction:
When we think of an individual who is employed to carry on a specific task and is given an exact job description, the hired hand does all that is required and nothing more. We would say that such a person does an adequate job. But we soon learn of another category when a person employed goes over and above the call of duty. Such a person is marked with excellence and surpasses his co-workers.
This is essentially how Paul describes love. Love is more than adequate, it extends, reaches further, and surpasses every standard. This is indeed a mark of excellence.

I. **Love's Praise – v.1**
   A. **Sacrificial love – (agape occurring 116 times in the N.T. 75 times used in Paul's epistles)**
      1. A dying love – Rom. 5:8
      2. A husband's love – Eph. 5:25
   B. **Hypothetical possibilities:**
      1. Earthly or heavenly love
      2. Love's speech – (Winston Churchill, Charles Spurgeon)
      3. Speech without love is a big noisy gong!

II. **Gifts Without Love – v.2-3**
   A. **Three kinds of gifts – (Prophecy, Knowledge, Faith)**
      1. Prophecy ranked second
      2. Knowledge – is useless without love
   B. **Deeds of Mercy – v.3**
      1. Giving a piece of bread – Psalm 41:9; Turn To: Luke 18:18-30
      2. Martyrs of the Faith – Jon Hus, Bohemian Reformer (died, July 6, 1415)

III. **Love's Definition – v.4-7**
   A. **What Love is:**
      1. Patient like God – Luke 18:7; II Pet. 3:9
      2. Kind like God – Rom. 2:4; Eph. 4:32
   B. **Love expressed negatively:**
      1. Not jealous – Gen. 37:11,28; Exod. 20:5; Deut. 5:9
      2. Not Bragging – root word, "wind- bag"
      3. Not arrogant – 4:18-19; 5:2; 8:1
      4. Not rude
      5. Not selfish
      6. Not angry – Num. 20:2-11; Eph. 4:26; John 2:13-17
      7. Not keeping score of wrongs
   C. **Love expressed Positively – v.6**
      1. Rejoices in truth – John 14:6
      2. Rejoices in Bible doctrine, gospel message, Theology

Finally:

Paul measures Love –v.7

1. ***Bears all things – I Pet. 4:8***
2. ***Believes all things – eager to believe the best, yet not gullible***
3. ***Hopes all things – Anticipates good things yet not unreasonable optimism.***
4. ***Endures all things – Perseveres as a soldier in battle, presses forward despite difficulties.***