The Comprehensiveness of Love

Love is not just one virtue or fruit of the Spirit among many. All Christian virtues are connected, because they are all planted in us at the time of our conversion by the gift of the Spirit. The new nature given by the Spirit is like a little seedling that grows gradually into a fruitful tree. The sap or life of the tree that flows into all the various fruits is Holy Spirit, who is the Love of God.

**Love disposes us to—**

**1. Rejoice in all that is *good***

A. Truth lines up with God’s *character*

B. Love for God delights in God’s *holiness*

**2. Bear all *hardships* for Christ**

A. We have the example of *Paul*

1 Corinthians 9:12 (same phrase)

B. We have the call of *Christ*

Luke 14:25-33

**3. Trust confidently in all *circumstances***

A. Faith and hope look to *God* (v. 13)

B. Faith and hope look beyond *appearances*

Hebrews 11:1

**4. Endure under all *life’s loads***

A. Why is endurance *essential*?

Matthew 10:22; Hebrews 10:35-39

B. How does love *help* us to endure?

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. What was the most important or helpful thing you heard in the sermon?

2. What questions did the sermon raise in your mind?

3. Regarding 1.A -- Very often in Scripture, “truth” means more than not telling lies. It often means conformity to God’s righteous character. See, for example,

Psalm 15:2; 51:6; John 1:17; 3:21; Romans 2:8;
1 Corinthians 5:8; Ephesians 4:17-21

4. Regarding 4.B -- Love provides a strong motive for enduring, but God in many ways insures that His children will endure. How does God reassure us of our final perseverance in the following passages?

John 6:37-44; 10:27-29

Ephesians 1:3-6; 13-14; 4:30

1 Peter 1:3-9