

LOVE LIKE GOD

JESSE WAGGONER



Chapter Twelve — *Love Bears All Things* (1 Corinthians 13:7)

“Love bears all things.” — 1 Corinthians 13:7

Big Idea

Love chooses to cover rather than expose and protects others with grace.

When Paul says, “Love bears all things,” he is describing more than endurance. The original word carries the idea of *covering*—like a roof that shelters from wind and rain. To bear in this sense means to protect someone from unnecessary harm, embarrassment, or exposure.

Love doesn’t rush to spotlight failures.
Love doesn’t weaponize information.
Love provides shelter.

This kind of love acts as a protective covering over others’ weaknesses—not to excuse wrongdoing, but to guard dignity. It is the opposite of gossip. It refuses to magnify faults for personal gain or emotional satisfaction.

God models this perfectly. Rather than exposing our sins to ongoing shame, He removes them completely through Christ. Because we are covered by His grace, we are invited to extend that same covering to others.

To bear all things means choosing discretion over disclosure, restoration over ridicule, and compassion over condemnation. Even when correction is necessary, love confronts gently and protects reputations whenever possible.

In a culture that thrives on exposure, this kind of love is revolutionary. It reflects the heart of Christ and creates safe spaces where healing can happen.

Practical Takeaways

- Love covers; gossip exposes.
- Love protects dignity; pride seeks attention.
- Love corrects gently; shame destroys.
- Love shelters rather than spotlights.

Ways to practice love that bears all things:

- Be slow to speak about others' failures.
- Correct privately when possible.
- Refuse to participate in gossip.
- Protect reputations whenever you can.
- Ask before speaking: *Will this help or harm?*

Love that bears all things does not ignore truth—but it handles truth with care.

Discussion Questions

1. When have you experienced someone covering your faults instead of exposing them? How did it affect you?
- 2.
3. In what situations might you need to protect someone's dignity this week?
4. How does God's covering of your sin motivate you to extend the same grace to others?
5. What steps can you take to ensure your words protect rather than wound?
6. Do you tend to expose or protect when someone fails—and what might God be inviting you to change?
7. Who in your life might need you to act as a “roof” over them right now, offering grace instead of criticism?