



Love bears all things

1 Corinthians 13:7

Breaking the Ice:

Have you ever had an “I wish I could run and hide moment?”

For Reflection:

Bears - It keeps out resentment as the ship keeps out the water, or the roof the rain.—Vincent

Love covers unworthy things rather than bringing them to the light and magnifying them. It puts up with everything. It is always eager to believe the best and to “put the most favorable construction on ambiguous actions. -F. Bruce

“Bears” has the thought of protection. Love puts up an umbrella for others. – McGee

Definition: bears all things

στέγω*stégō*; To cover. In the NT, to cover over in silence.

(I) Generally meaning to conceal, love hides the faults of others or covers them up.

(II) To hold out, forbear, bear with, endure¹

¹Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

The word translated “bears” in this verse comes from the same Greek word that means roof or covering. It may seem strange to connect this to love. However sometimes the most loving thing to do is to “cover” the faults of another rather than putting them on display. While we should not “sweep under the rug” real issues, they need to be handled delicately. A friend of mine offered this advice – “always praise in public and correct in private.” Maybe this is close to the real meaning of “bearing all things.”
-JPW

Why is there a tendency to expose and publicize the faults of others?

What lengths do we go to as we seek to hide our own faults from others?

Read 1 Peter 4:8 and Proverbs 10:12 – How do you react to these commands and how can we put them into action?

How has God suppressed our faults? How should we respond to Him?

Without this word study what would you suppose that “bears all things” means? Thank you for your efforts to study the Bible on a deeper level!

Response:

Choose to lovingly suppress any tendencies to reveal faults in others but seek to major on the positive.

Bottom Line:

Seek to expose the good in others rather than their failings.