



Love never fails

1 Corinthians 13:8

Breaking the Ice:

What is something that you wish lasted longer than it does?

For Reflection:

Fails (ἐκπίπτει). Falls *off* (ἐκ) like a leaf or flower, as Jas. 1:11; 1 Pet. 1:24. In classical Greek it was used of an actor who was hissed off the stage. But the correct reading is πίπτει*falls*, in a little more general sense, as Luke 16:17. Love holds its place. - M R Vincent

Love never fails, in the sense it will never come to an end. Positively stated, it is eternal. This is not true of the spiritual gifts. - D K Lowery

Love never fails in the sense of falling away when the physical temporal things on which affection rests pass away; it outlasts temporal things. Gifts of the Spirit will pass away because they are temporary provisions, but the fruit of the Spirit will abide. – Tom Constable

Definition: love never fails

Agape oudepote piptei

Purest Love in no way ever will fall

In this section Paul states that while many important things will not last (prophecy, tongues, knowledge) love is eternal. It will not only last the test of time but of eternity, as God and His people will dwell together in perfect love. Since it is eternal it is implied that we elevate love to its rightful position as the ideal for interpersonal relationships. Note in verse 13 that even other things that abide – that is, do not end- are not the greatest either. Love is the greatest of all. -JPW

Why does Paul use so much space to describe love as it really is and the value of it as compared to other valuable things? What does this move you to do?

As you think back over your participation in this Bible study what has God done in your heart and life?

What has been the most revolutionary concept in this definition of love?

What ways have you been able to put into action what you have learned?

Response:

Seek to operate on the highest plane – love like God.

Bottom Line:

God's love for us and our opportunity to love in return will never end.