“The Greatest of These is Love”
(Compiled by Paul R Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:
A. 1Cor. 12:31, 13:13
   1. This virtue will facilitate growth in favor with God and man - Luke 2:52
   2. This virtue will present each man perfect in Christ - Col. 1:28-29, 3:14
   3. This virtue forms the basis of righteousness - 1John 3:10
B. Bible love is unique and wonderful above all loves of this earth
   1. We must avoid doctrine without love - 1Cor. 13:1-3
   2. We must avoid love without doctrine - 2Chron. 19:2

I. LOVE IS THE GREATEST DUTY OF MAN
   A. Love of others is not a suggestion, but a commandment of God; this necessarily means that Bible love is based on a choice to dedicate ourselves to wellbeing of those we have chosen to love
      1. 1Peter 1:22, 2:17; 1John 3:23
   B. Love is the first law of our relationship with God and the first law of our relationship with each other; it is the royal law, and is the foundation of all God given law
      1. Mark 12:28-34; James 2:8; Gal. 5:14
   C. We have been taught to love one another from the beginning
      1. 1John 3:11; John 15:12, 17
   D. Our sanctification and state of holiness requires an increasing love for others
      1. 1Thes. 3:12-13, 4:9-10
   E. Being God’s children requires growing in love - Eph. 5:1-2; Matt. 5:44-45, 48

II. LOVE IS THE GREATEST MANIFESTATION OF GRACE
   A. Our nature when we served the Adversary was to live in hate
      1. Titus 3:3; 1John 3:11-14
   B. Our nature when we serve the Lord is to be transformed by His love and grace to love others
      1. Saul hated Christians intensely - Acts 9:1, 26:11
      2. But Paul loved them dearly - 2Cor 12:15

III. LOVE IS THE GREATEST EVIDENCE OF FAITH
   A. Faith must be combined with love for it to be in evidence
      1. Gal. 5:6; Heb. 6:10; 1Peter 1:21-23
   B. Regeneration is proven by abounding in love
      1. 2Peter 1:5-11; 1John 3:16-19, 4:7-11
   C. We have no evidence that we love God unless we love the children of God
      1. 1John 4:20 - 5:1

IV. LOVE IS THE GREATEST MEANS OF GLORIFYING GOD
   A. We may accomplish more good to God’s glory with love than anything else.
   B. Churches grow through edification and love - Eph. 4:15-16
C. Everything we do is to be done with love, or it is of no value - 1Cor. 16:14
D. Love can cover a multitude of sins - 1Peter 4:8
E. Love moves others to rejoice as they observe our love in action
   1. Phil. 1:7; 2Cor. 9:12-13

V. LOVE IS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF WELL BEING
   A. We secure more blessings and peaceful lives by love than any other means.
      1. 1Peter 3:8-11; Prov. 15:17