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## ***The Logic of Love***

### **Chapter 22: Love Is The Greatest**

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails.*

*There abide faith, hope, and love,  
but the greatest of these is love.*

*Pursue love, yet keep zealously seeking  
all of the spiritual gifts.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13, 14

How can we hold love as the highest value? Let me count the ways.

We affirm that love is our highest value in life.

We make choices consistent with doing the greatest good, for the greatest number, for the greatest length of time.

We live for love and are willing to die for it.

We allow others their fair measure of suffering and pleasure as wisdom dictates, and we graciously accept the same.

We give generously to others as wisdom dictates and graciously accept the same.

We take care of ourselves so that we have the energy to love.

We express love through both forgiveness and healthy boundaries.

We generate and appreciate beauty, truth, and goodness.

We speak, sing, and listen to love.

We believe what is reasonable, if it promotes love.

We hope for love.

We teach love and learn to love.

We learn to love learning to love.

We learn to love learning to love learning to love.

We are physically, intellectually, and spiritually courageous when defending the cause of love.

We are loyal to the supreme value of love.

We are not critical of the author for going on and on about love, and we laugh out loud at all of his jokes . . .

It's fun to strike up the band for love. We could sing a few catchy refrains about how love leads to faith in God and go home emotionally satisfied. But this is not about being hypnotically 'pied-pipered' into a quick decision. If faith is to last a lifetime, better that it is entered into with sincere reflection and our most critical thinking, not simply in response to deeply felt emotions. Our personal wisdom, the product of our best synthesis of reason and experience, is the solid foundation on which to make decisions that cut to the core of who we are and what we are about.

Faith in God is not for the faint hearted or the fickle because the pursuit of love takes courage no matter which gnostic paradigm we choose. Faith does not keep one out of trouble, but it helps to make the most of adversity. "Bottoming out" sometimes acts as a catalyst for choosing faith, yet where the journey begins is not nearly so important as where it ends—as an act of love. Appreciating

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that wake-up calls can be powerful catalysts for positive change, however, is no excuse for courting disaster. Better to approach faith as a courageous act done from a position of strength. By securely fastening faith to the logic of love, we can safely celebrate the joys and bravely face the challenges that it faithful living brings.

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