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# ***PROJECT HOPE: The Greatest of These Is...***

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, December 10, 2017*

## 1 Corinthians 13:1–13

### **We Who Have Received Hope Are Responsible to Share Hope**

“Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. **Some of you were once like that.** But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” *1 Corinthians 6:9–11, NLT*

#### 1. There Is No Hope Apart from Jesus

“In those days you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.” *Ephesians 2:12–13, NLT*

#### 2. We Hold Hope for Others

“for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.” *Luke 15:24, NLT*

#### 3. We Tell Others About the Hope That Is in Jesus

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.” *2 Corinthians 5:18, NLT*

### **Love Is Not an Option – In Christ, It Is a Compulsion**

“We love each other because he loved us first.” *1 John 4:19, NLT*

“Anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” *1 John 4:8, NLT*

I Love Because God’s Love Lives in Me

## 1. If Find Myself Having to Manufacture Love for Others I Am Disconnected from God

Difficult Relationships Don't Stop Me from Producing Love  
– Being Disconnected from Jesus Does

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.”  
*John 15:4, NLT*

## 2. The Concentric Circles of Love

“This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” *1 John 4:10, NLT*

Our Core is Jesus



We Know and Experience God's Love



We Love Our Inner Circle



We Love Our Community



We Love Our Nation and World

## 3. Love Is Learning How to Put the Needs of Others Before My Own

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” *Vs 6-8a*

“Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” *Philippians 2:3-4, NLT*

Who Am I Going to Give Hope to This Season and How Am I Going to Do It?

Who Am I Going to Love to This Season That Needs the Love of God?

