THE GREATEST OF THESE

1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13

Key Verse: 13:13

1. What did Paul urge the Corinthians to do? (12:31) What Christian activities does he mention (13:1–3), and why would anybody be doing these things without love? What results in each case, and what does this teach us?
2. How does Paul define love? (4a) Why is it so hard, yet so necessary, to be like this? What things does love not do, and what does this tell us about our human nature? (4b–6a) How else does Paul describe love, what does he mean, and how can we live like this practically? (7)
3. What does Paul conclude about love? (8a) In contrast, what does he say about prophecies, tongues and knowledge? (8b) What will happen “when completeness comes,” and what does Paul mean by this? (9,10)
4. How and why does Paul contrast being a child with being an adult? (11) How does he contrast the present with the future, and what is he talking about? (12)
5. Read verse 13. What does it mean that faith, hope and love “remain”? How are these three interrelated? Why is love “the greatest of these”?