

**Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee**  
**Dr. William Barron**  
February 23, 2020

***“Loving and Accepting Being Loved”***

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**Let us pray** – *Oh God, use the foolishness of preaching that your people might hear in their own language your love for each of us. Amen.*

The twelfth chapter of I Corinthians ends with these words, *“I will show you a still more excellent way.”* Then the thirteenth chapter continues with, *“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and angels and do not have love I am a noisy gong or clanging cymbal.”*

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Continuing in Corinthians, *“If I give away all my possessions and if I give my body to be burned, but do not have love I gain nothing.”* Let’s look closely at what Paul is actually describing. He’s speaking of the cream of the crop – the spiritual giants of the faith; people who speak with tongues as angels; who have their sights on what God is up to in the future; who know all the answers to the mysteries of God; who have faith to remove mountains and give away all their possessions. These are not people who simply

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**Dr. William Barron**  
February 23, 2020

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I can't omit my two favorite Jenny's (Ginny's) – **Jenny Glover** and **Ginny Lyon**. If you see people walking around the sanctuary with lipstick on their cheek, it's a sign of Ginny Lyon's love. Jenny Glover's Valentine Card expresses the sentiment that exudes in her life – "Kindness is doing ordinary things with extraordinary love." Again, our deep appreciation for so many of you who love lavishly but were not named.

For many of us the most difficult obstacle is the **inability to accept God's amazing love for us**.

This story happened in 1972. My sister Lucie was on vacation with a fellow teacher in the heart of Mexico. It had been a wonderful trip. Her friend Pat was driving in rainy weather in a mountainous region. There were no guard rails and as they rounded a sharp curve their car left the road and tumbled down a long and steep incline of rocks and sand. Both young women were thrown from the car. Lucie describes how when all was still except for the windshield wipers on the badly damaged car, she was fully aware that Pat's lifeless body was well below where she had landed and she was herself injured and bleeding. It was an arduous climb back up to the road to get help.

Amazingly, in a short period of time a car approached and stopped. It was a single man who rolled down the window. Lucie asked if he spoke English. He said, "A little." "Can you help me?" she asked, and he did.

He helped her into the car, reassured her that she had to leave Pat and the scene of the accident to get medical attention herself. He drove her to the nearest village with a clinic where she was given priority to see the doctor. The young man remained with her until he was sure she was in good hands and left without her even learning his name.

The doctor who also happened to be the mayor of the village took Lucie to his home where his wife and five children cared for her for a week. He arranged immediately for a crew to recover Pat's body and retrieve all their personal belongings that were strewn along the mountainside. Only recently I learned that the doctor's children stood around Lucie's bed a number of times with their rosary beads praying for healing. The small village had a special Mass for Lucie. When she was able to fly back home, family friends drove all night to take her to the airport in Mexico City. No one would accept any money for their services. As she was leaving the village, they lined the streets and each prayed with their beads for the American woman and the family of her friend who was killed. I have often wondered what I would have done had I been in that situation.

*"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things! Love never ends!"* In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.