

The Gift of Love through the eyes of Safeguarding - 1 Cor 13:1-7 & 13 rewritten

Original Text NRV5

If I speak in the tongues of mortals
and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging
cymbal.
And if I have prophetic powers, and
understand all mysteries and all
knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to
remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body so that I
may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient;

love is kind;

love is not envious or boastful or
arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way;

it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

And now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three;
and the greatest of these is love.

Rewritten by Lis Sparrow

If I have put up all the posters, filled in the dashboard, done the
training
but do not live safeguarding,
I am fooling myself in thinking, I'm covered, that's all I need to
do.

And if I have a licence to preach and visit people in their homes,
and read and understand all the documents

and if I have all the contacts, so I can open doors of those in the
know if the sh*t hits the fan,

but do not live safeguarding, I am nothing

If I make it look on the outside I am perfect Christian, someone
to admire, someone who will revive the Church of England, that
the hierarchy think is wonderful

but do not live safeguarding, I give nothing

Safeguarding is patient ... *patient in waiting for victims and survivors
to feel and know it's safe enough to share their story of abuse*

Safeguarding is kind... *kind in seeing each human being made in the
image of God, that can be vulnerable and open to abuse whilst
knowing some will abuse too.*

Safeguarding is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude ... *it's
second nature that everyone does to keep everyone safe, young and
old, vulnerable for a day, vulnerable every day, lay and clergy, a way of
being.. nobody is special because everyone is special*

It does not insist on its own way;

*It is a community which will allow everyone to question
behaviour, to feel confident to share their concerns*

it is not irritable or resentful;

*It is a community, which doesn't moan that safeguarding is just
common sense, why do we waste so much time on it.*

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

*It is a community that won't use ridicule, veiled threats and
shaming to keep people in their place*

but rejoices in the truth.

*It is a community, which is willing to face the truth however
painful and surprising that may be.*

It bears all things, believes all things,

*It is a community, which will support and believe victims and
survivors of abuse and ensure perpetrators are safely and
appropriately supported too.*

hopes all things, endures all things.

*That despite everything, abuse still ignored, another revelation
of a person not believed about their abuse, that one day
safeguarding will be lived, be truly accepted as a foundation of
Christian living, so all can flourish to build God's Kingdom*

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;

and the greatest of these is love.

*faith in God even when the system lets us down,
hope that one day Safeguarding will be lived not just ticked off
on a list.*

*Safeguarding in action, surely this is a true expression of God's
love?*

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Rewritten by Revd Lis Sparrow 2025