



Go on to

LOVE

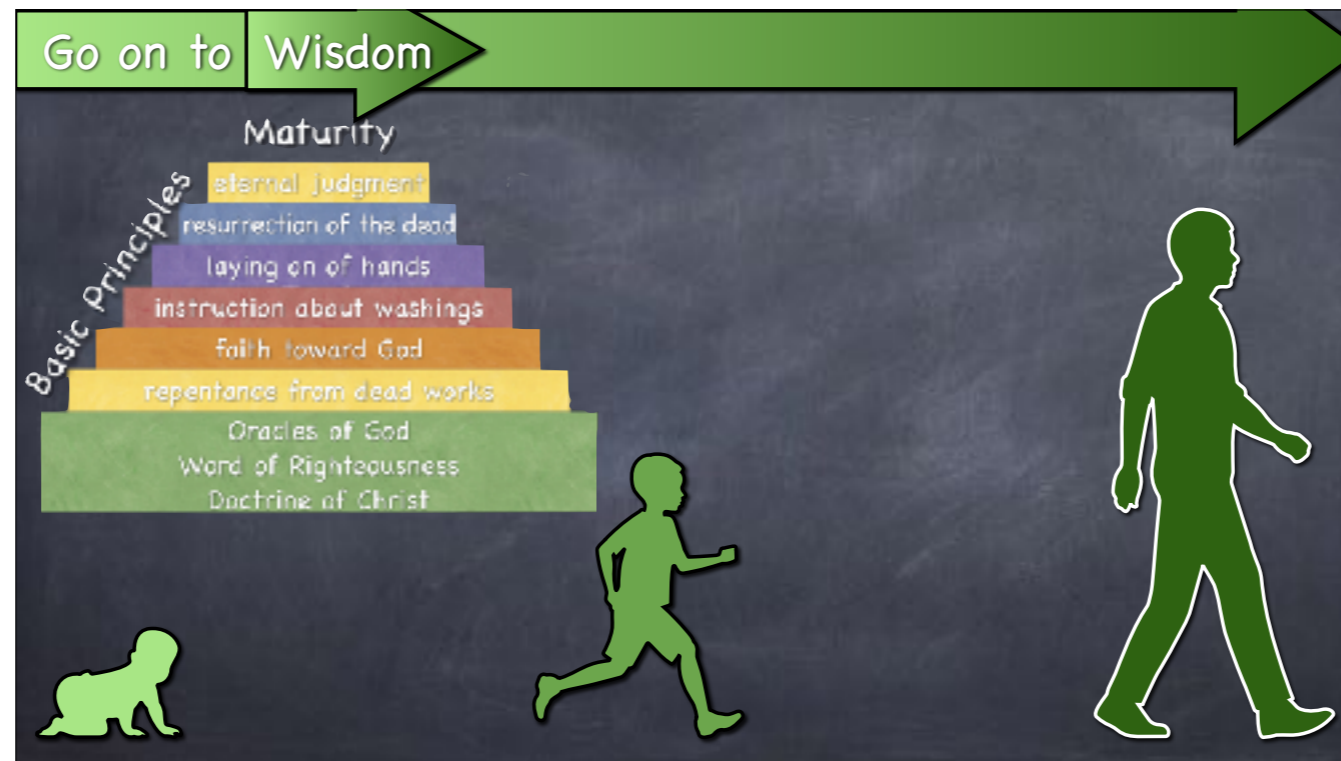
1 Corinthians 13; 1 Timothy 1:5; Colossians 3:14



- For many more lessons than I had planned we've been talking about the importance of growing in Christ
- We all start as infants in Christ
- He expects us to grow up! To be like Him.



- Hebrew writer (ch. 6) reminds us of the basic principles (ABC)
- Foundation is the Written Word of God
- Repentance from Dead works
- Faith toward God
- Instruction about Washings (baptism)
- Laying on of hands
- Resurrection of the dead
- Eternal judgment



- To press on to maturity, as Paul did and encouraged us
- We must go on in wisdom.
 - Not wisdom of world, but wisdom of God
- Note the strong connection between the foundation of wisdom, and continuing in wisdom!



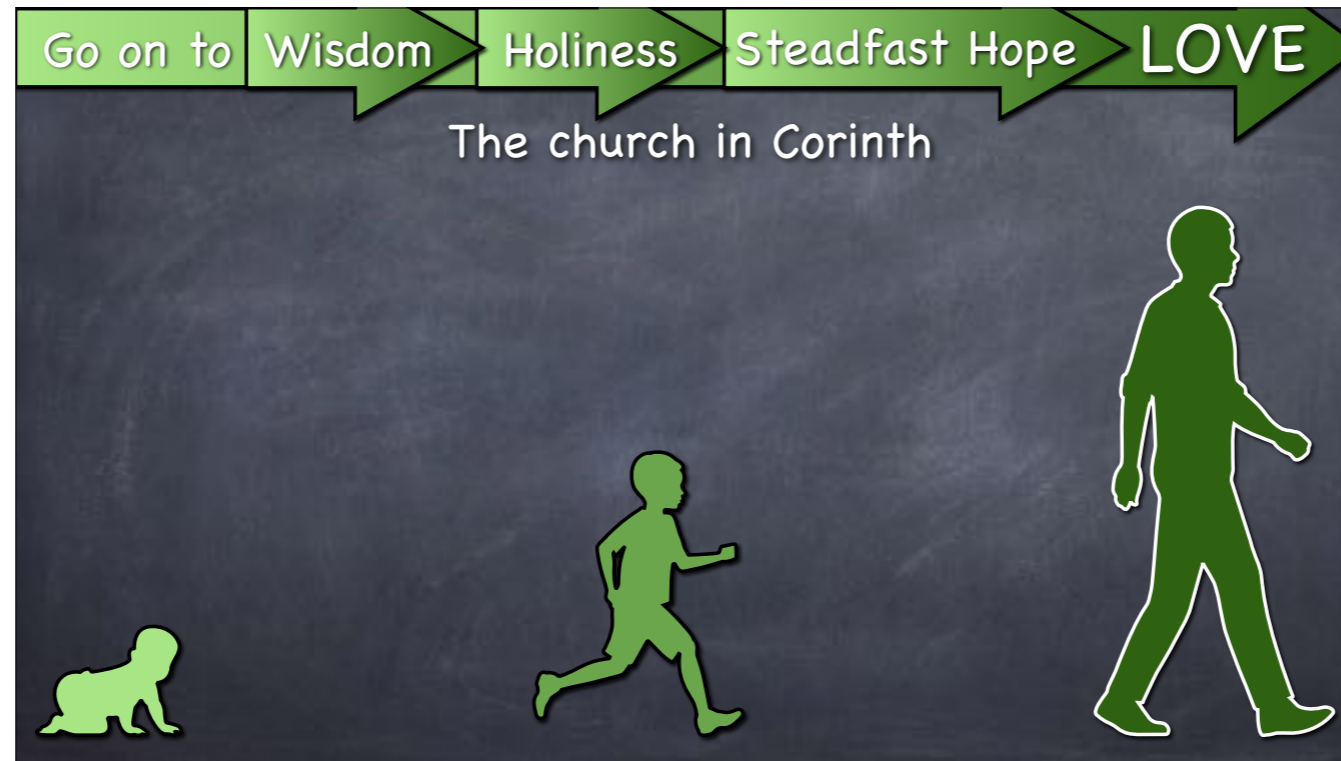
- It's vital that we pursue holiness
 - An exclusive, special relationship with God based in love
 - Draws us closer to Him
 - Walk in the way of holiness: way of righteousness



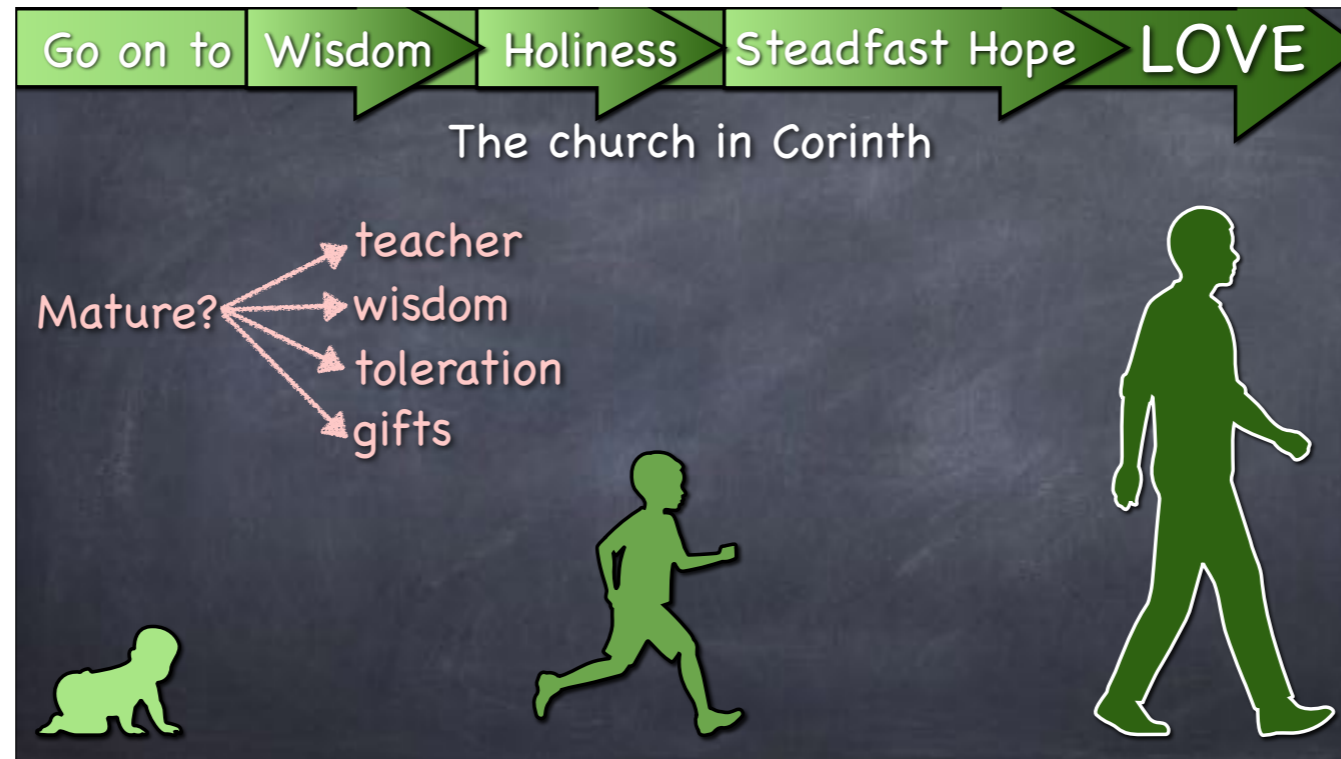
- We must learn to endure the things of this life with steadfast hope
- Hope: because we trust in Him and look forward to our salvation
- Steadfast: because the way is hard and long



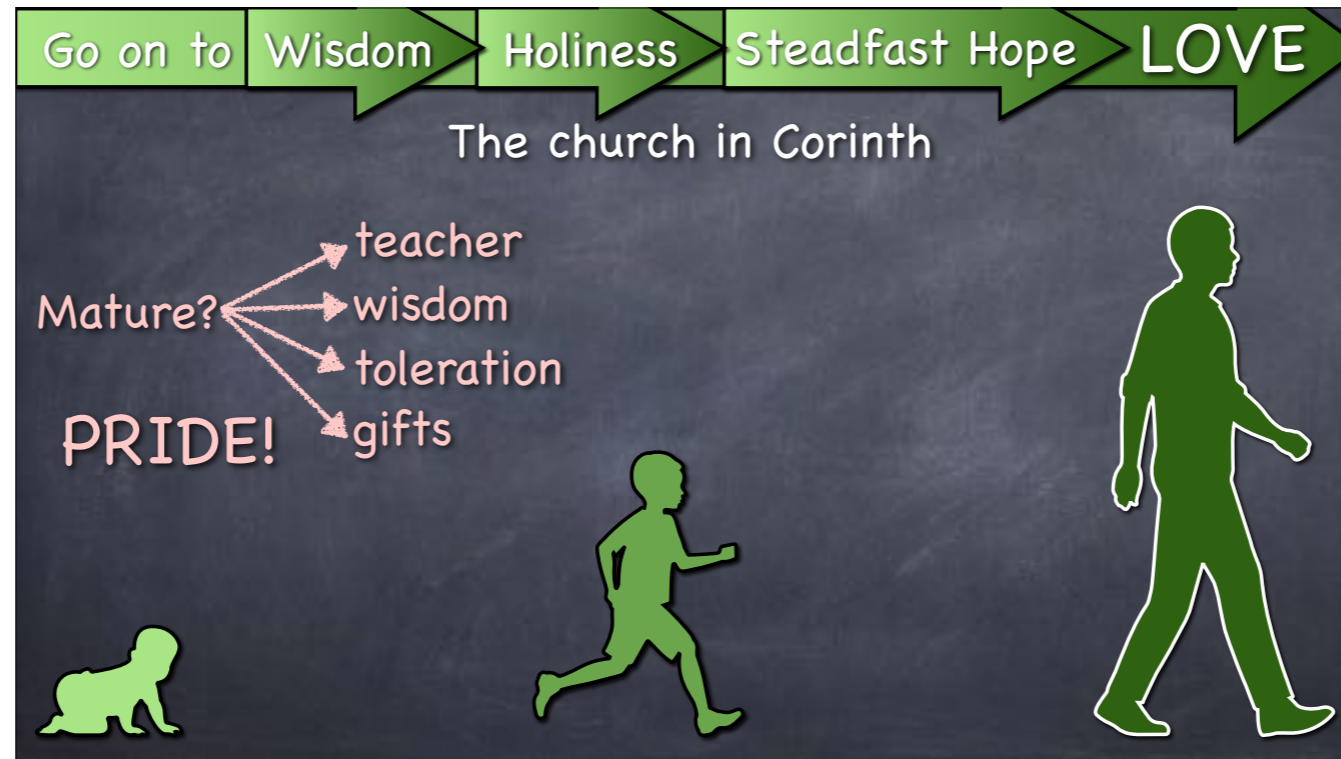
- Today, the importance of Love to be mature in Christ
- Three passages that point us to how important Love is
 - If we don't have love (godly, holy, Christ-like love) then WE ARE NOT MATURE.



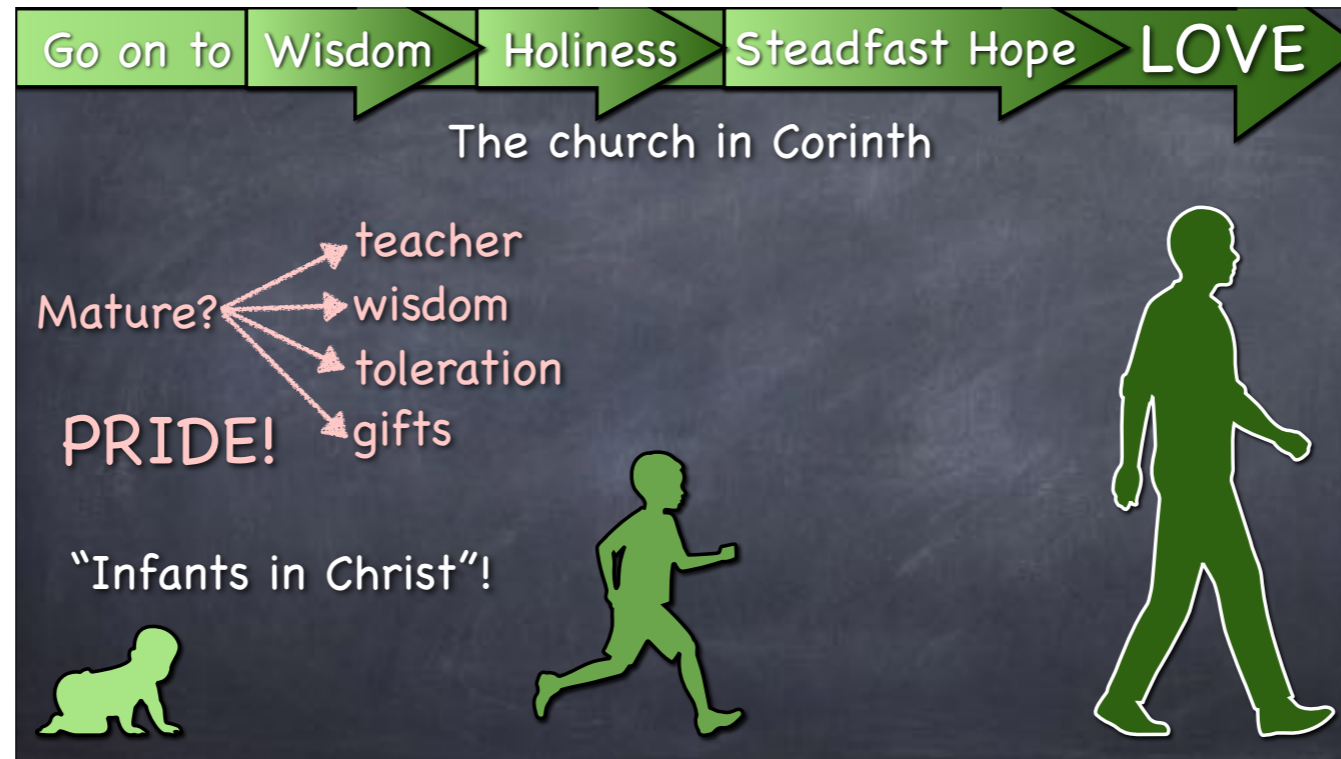
- Paul work with the church in Corinth for a very long time (year and a half)
- It wasn't too long after he left (less than a year) that he need to write a very strong letter to them.



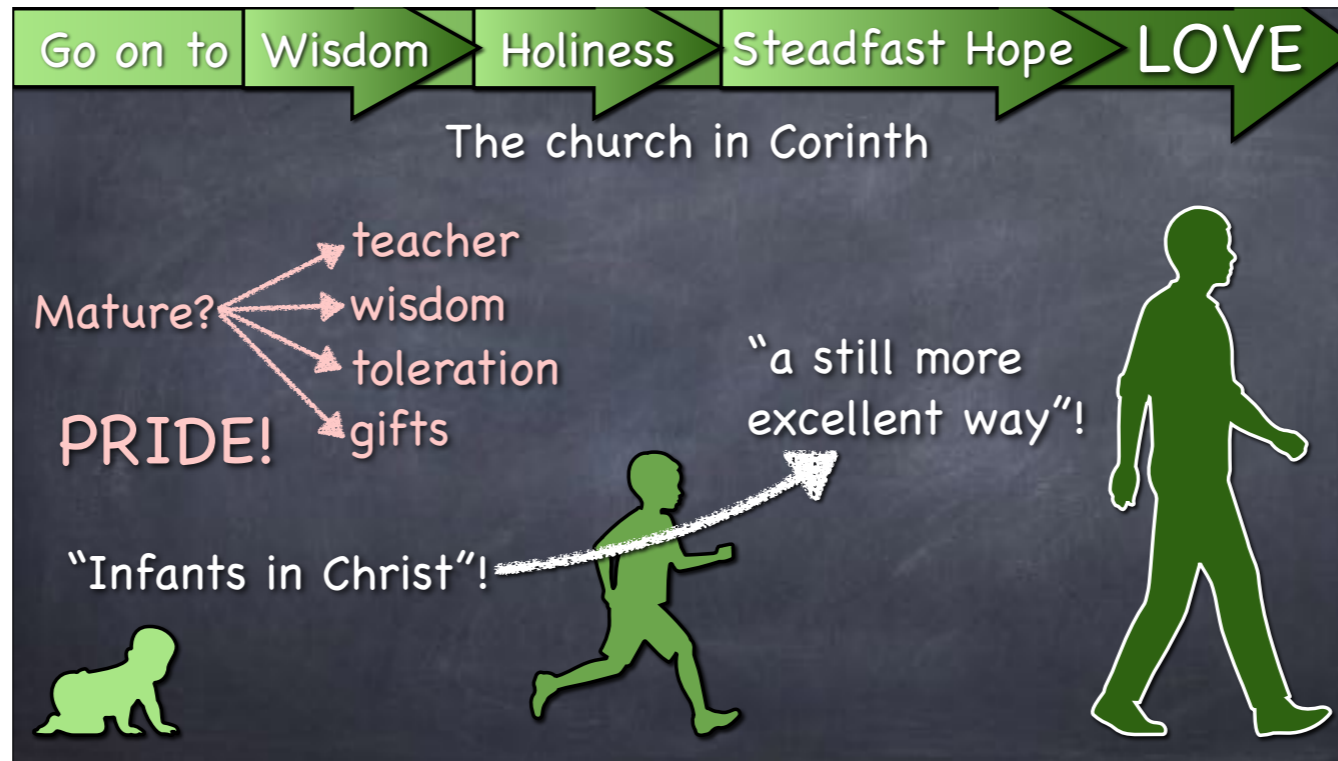
- They considered maturity in Christ to be based on a variety of things
 - Who taught me, who I follow as my teacher (which shouldn't matter if all teaching truth)
 - Wisdom (very cultural), but still trapped in the worldly concepts of wisdom
 - Toleration of sin and rebellion; but still made social distinctions
 - Gifts: tongues, prophecy, greater



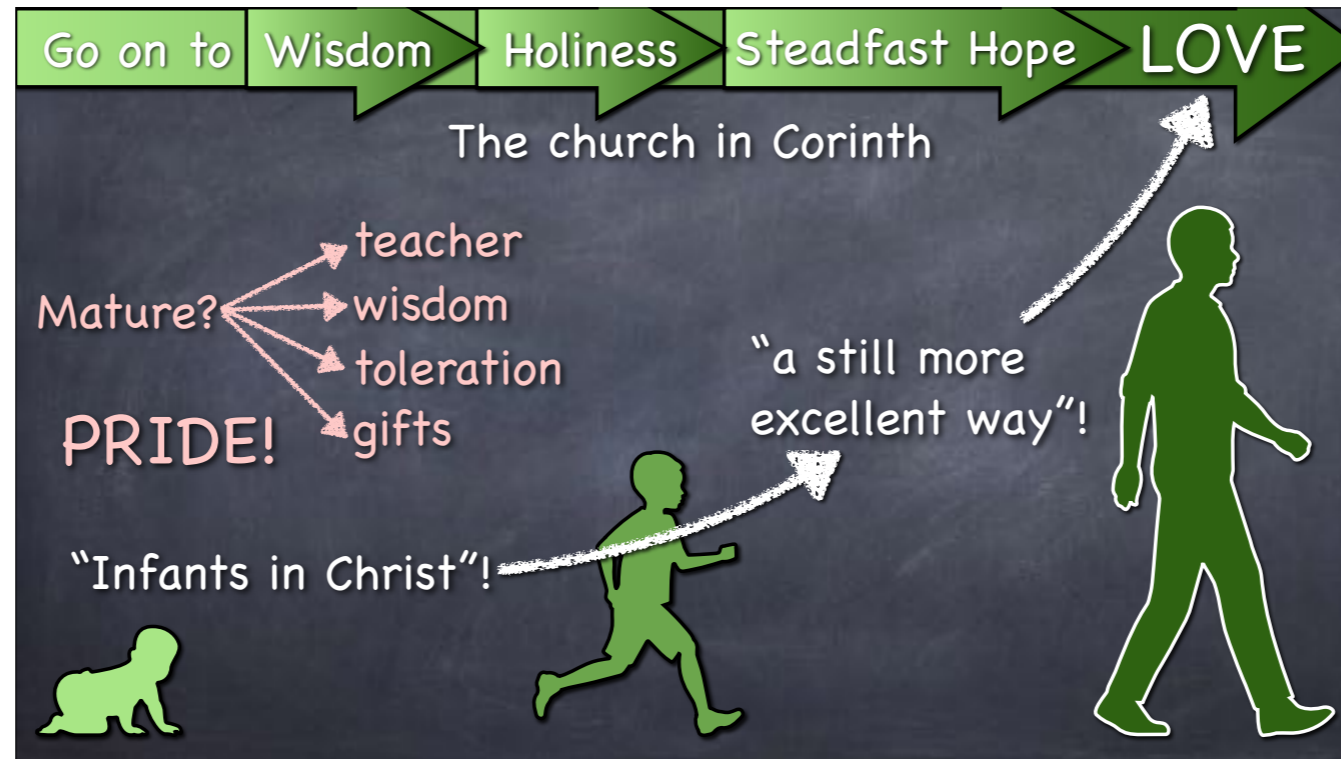
- Root issue is PRIDE!
 - What is the opposite of Love?
 - Hatred?
 - Apathy?
 - Pride: love for myself raised above love for all others
- Constant problem for disciples when with Jesus
 - See it often in early saints and those who oppose Jesus
 - See it among ourselves



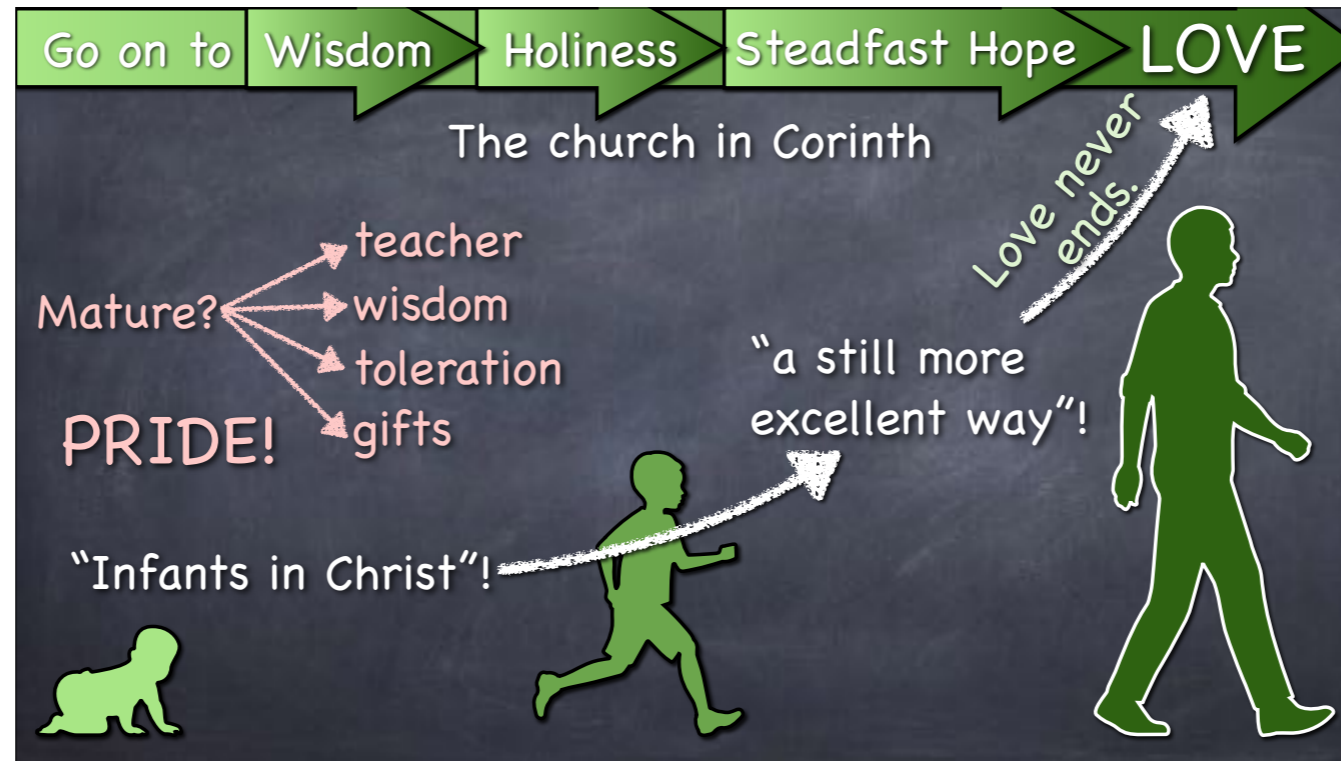
- 1 Corinthians 3:1: But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.
- Were they affronted?
- Evidence was plentiful
 - they were still more like citizens of the world
 - than citizens of the kingdom of Christ.



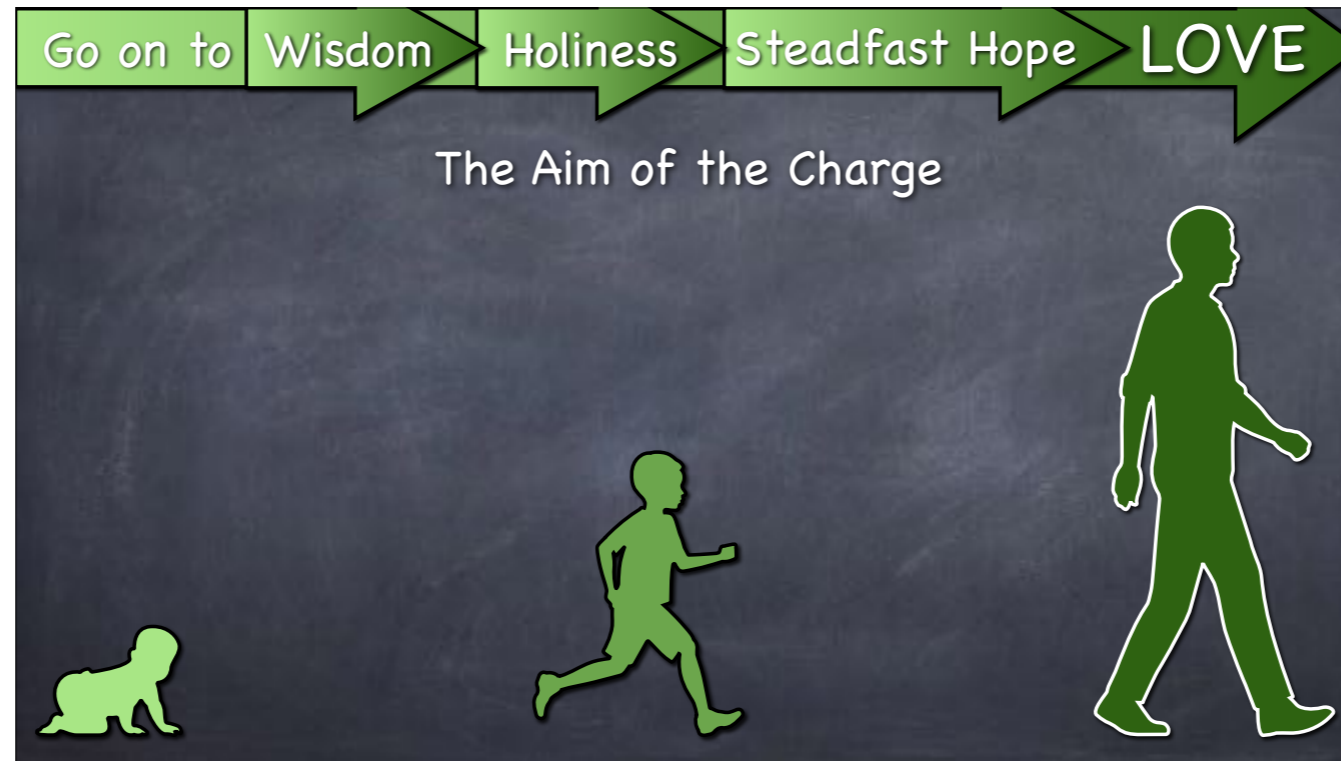
- 1 Corinthians 12:31: And I will show you a still more excellent way.



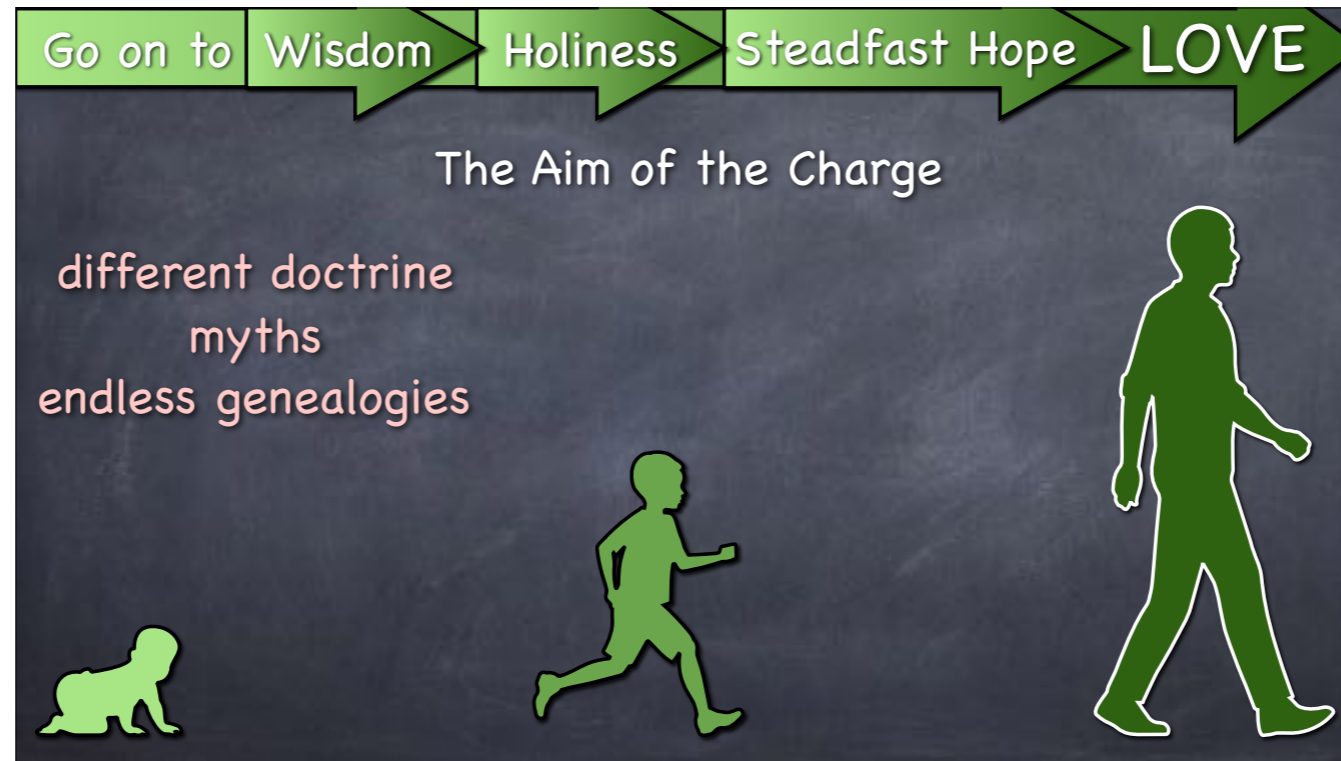
- How do you get prideful people ("I want to be the best") to care about Love?
- Tell them there's "a still more excellent way"
 - Do you want to be the best? Here's how!
- Love



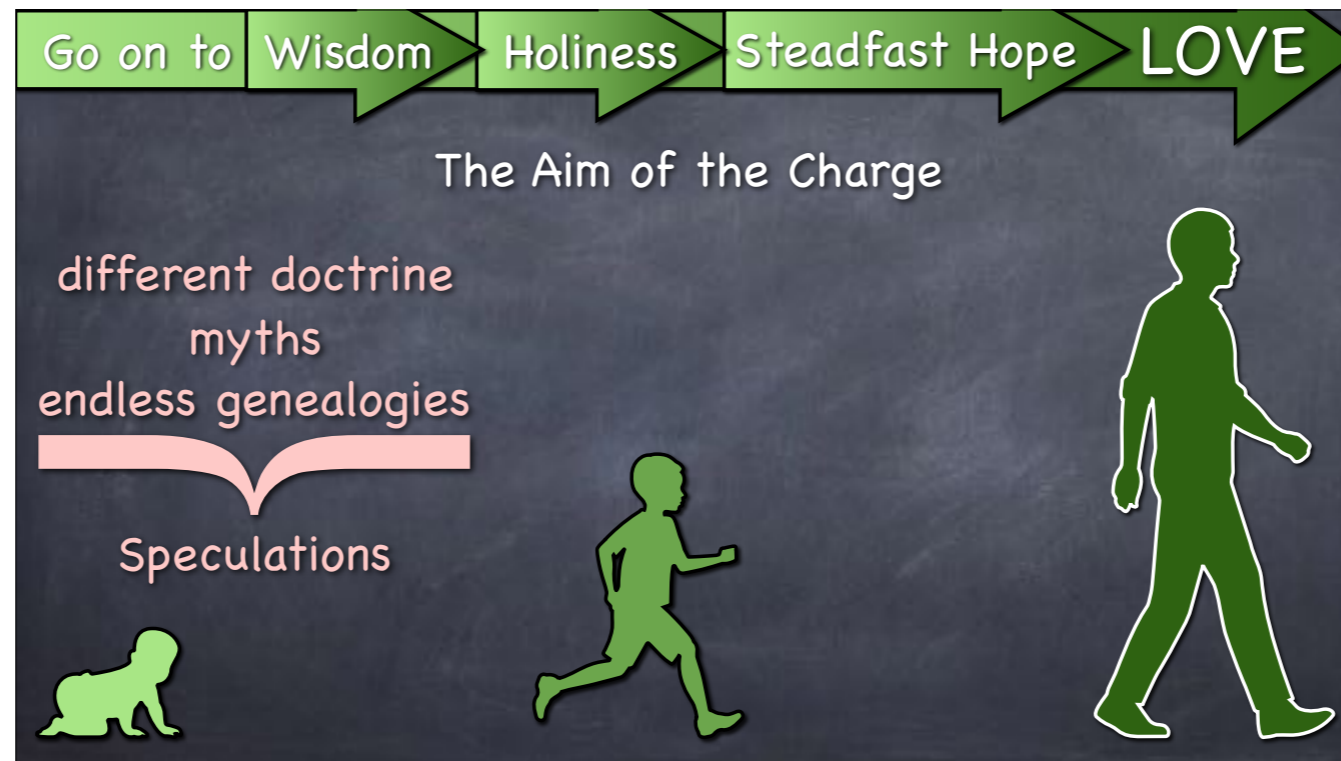
- 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (ESV) 8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.



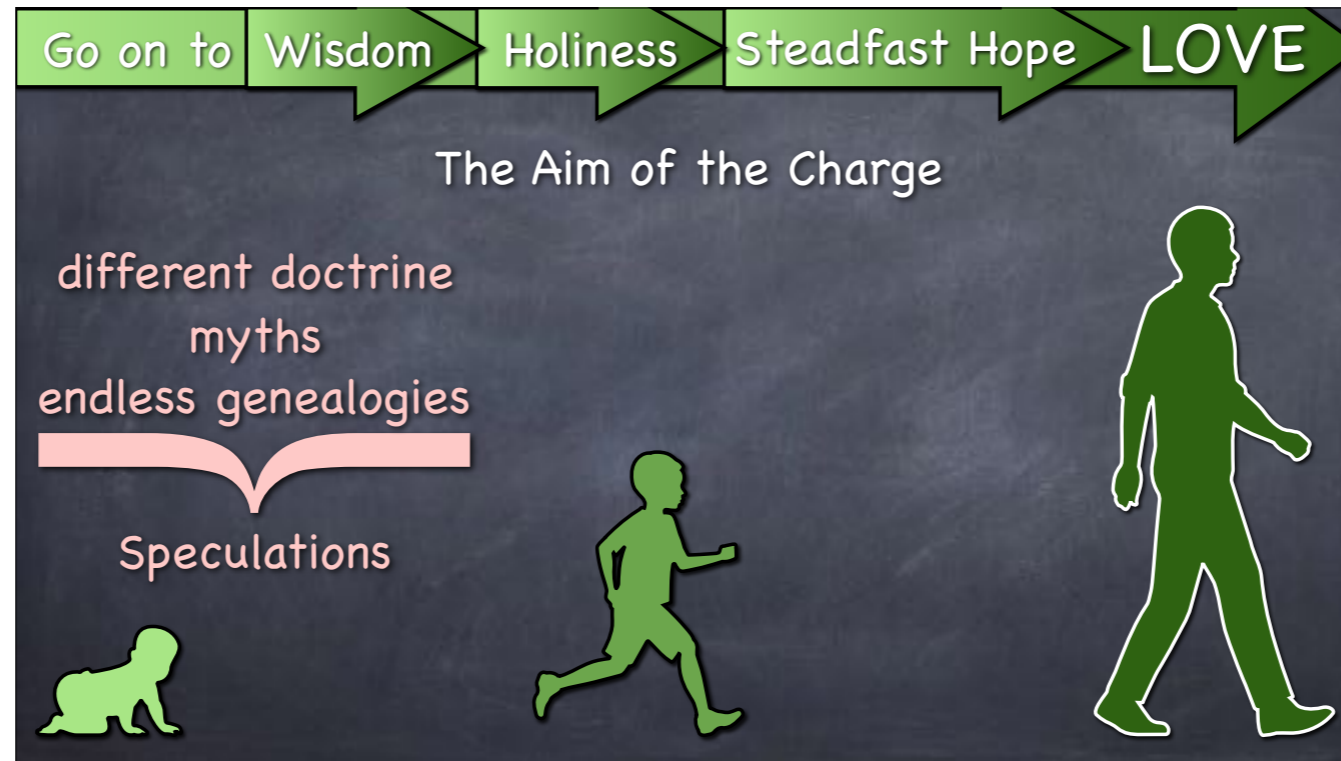
- 1 Timothy 1:3-7 (ESV) 3 As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, 4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. 5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.



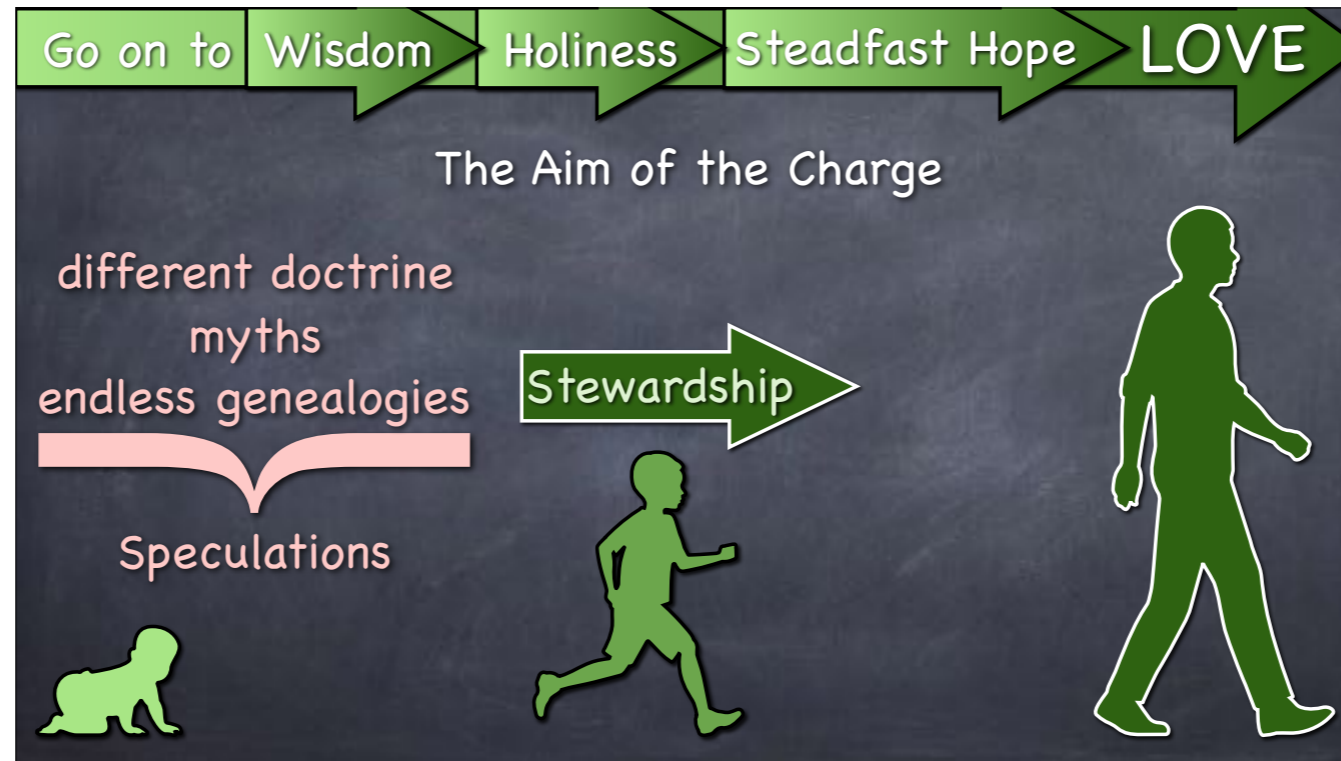
- charge certain persons
 - not to teach any different doctrine
 - nor to devote themselves to myths
 - and endless genealogies



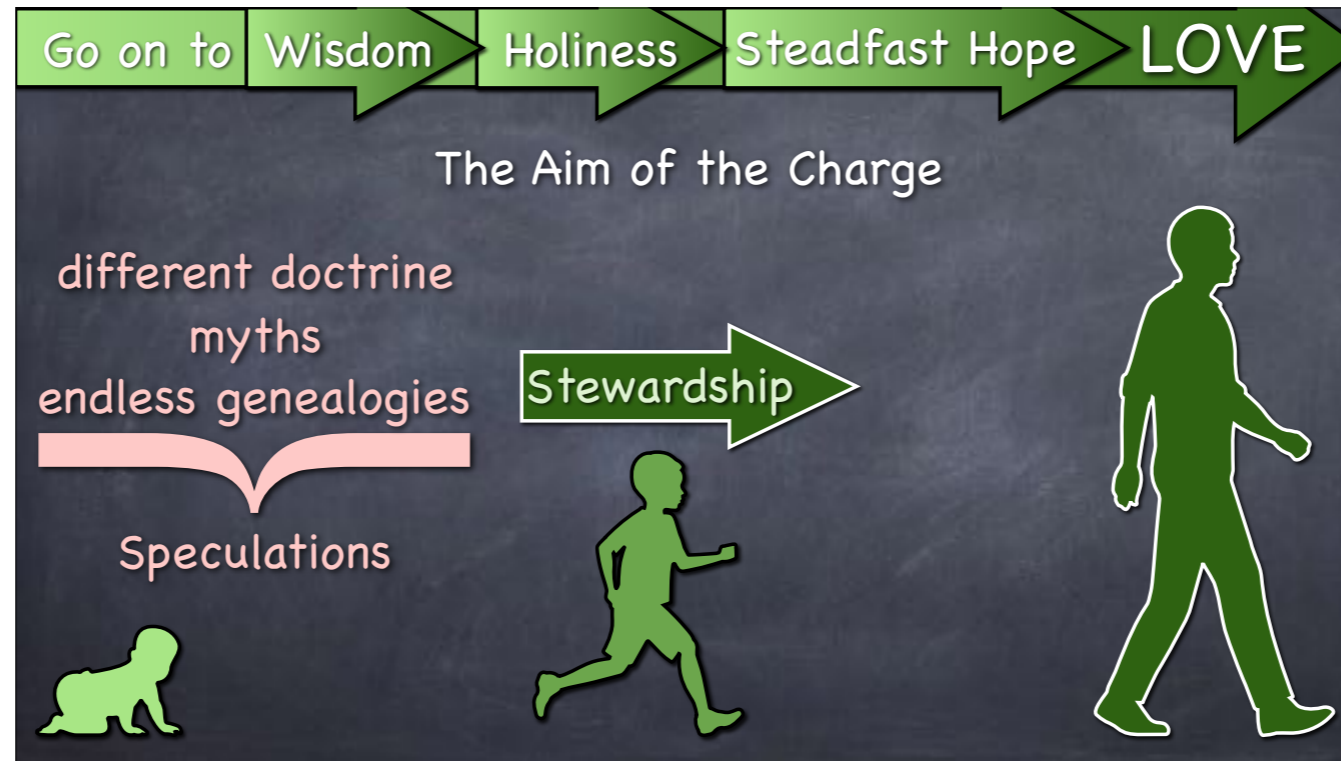
- which promote speculations
- 6 Certain persons, by swerving from these, have
 - wandered away into **vain** discussion
 - desiring to be teachers of the law
 - **without understanding** either what they are saying or
 - the things about which they make **confident assertions**.



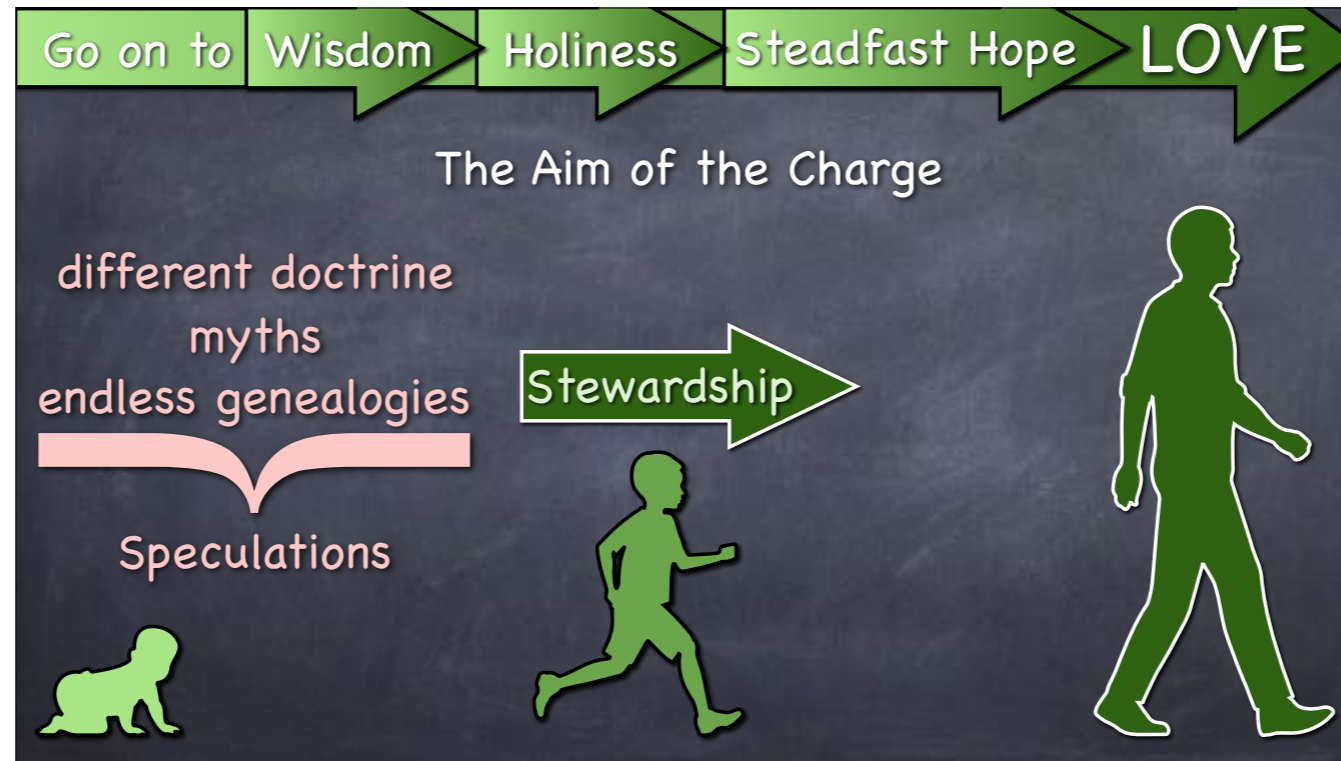
- This is still childishness...
- We can easily get caught up in the doctrines and focus on the wrong things
- Emphasize genealogies but not faith, hope, and love



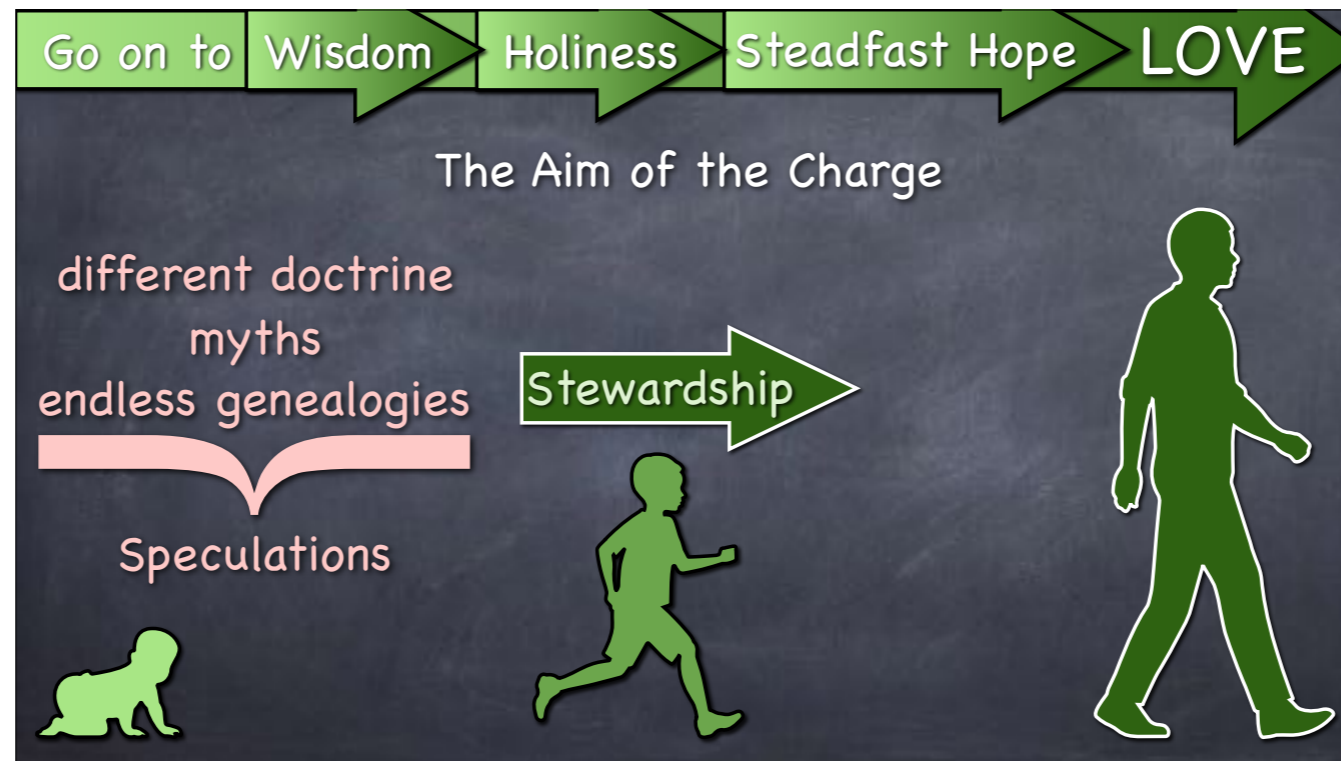
- speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith
 - KJV: godly edifying
 - ASV: dispensation



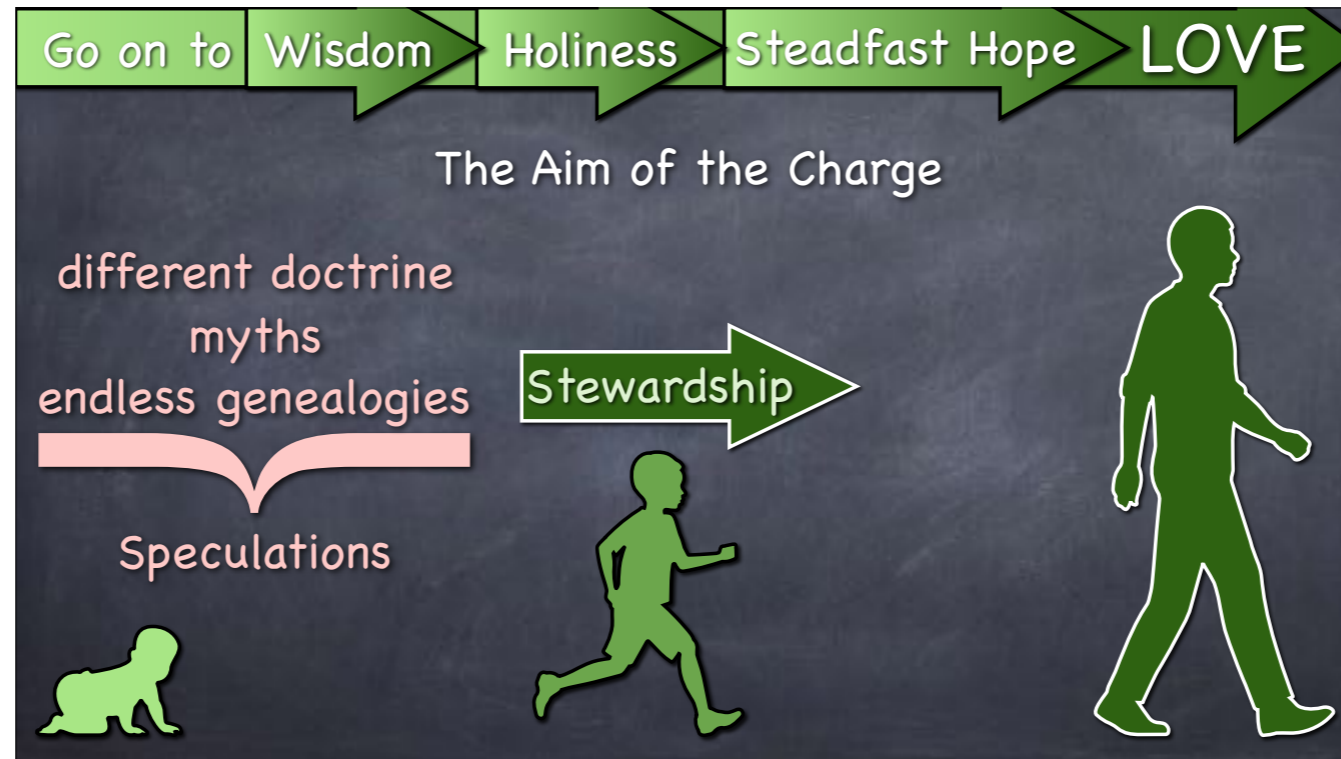
- (CWSB Dictionary) The meaning is the administration of God's saving purpose pertaining to the fullness of the times.
- (MED) a due discharge of a commission



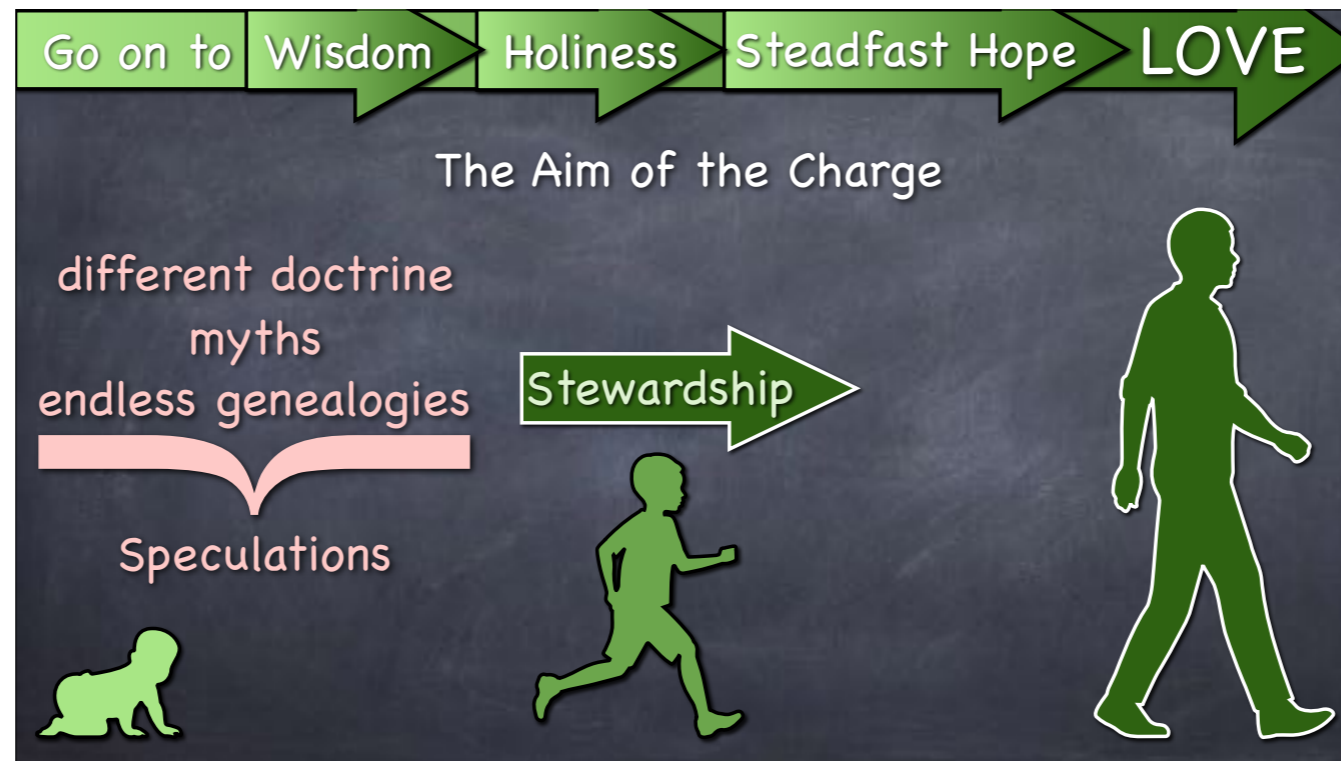
- (TDNT - Abridged) A second NT use is for the 'divine plan' of salvation, its order and administration.
 - A final NT use occurs in 1 Tim. 1:4, where false teachers are said to promote speculations rather than godly 'instruction' (or training) in faith (oikonomían theoú en pístei).



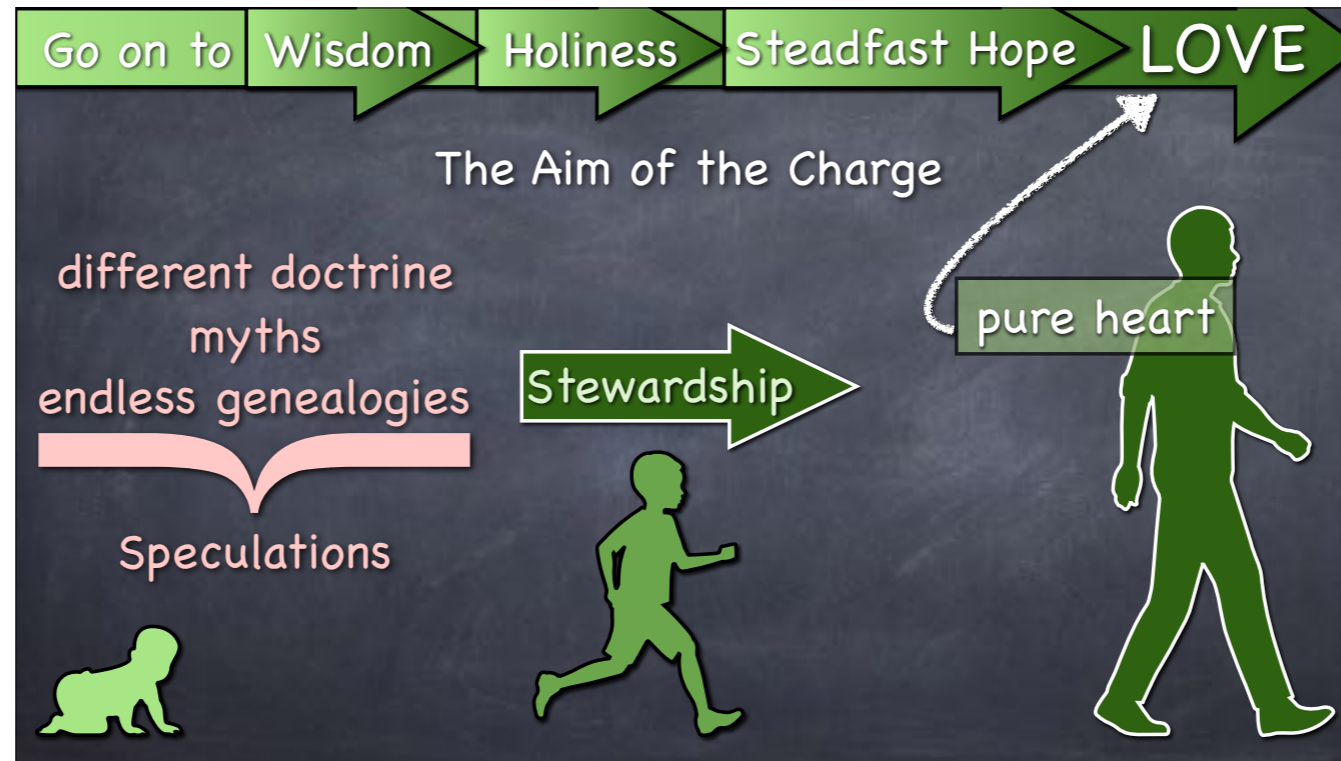
- The proper use of Scripture to help us grow to salvation and maturity in Christ
- Too often we become easily fascinated by speculations drawn from the Scriptures that don't really help us to mature.
- They just keep us wandering from idea to idea



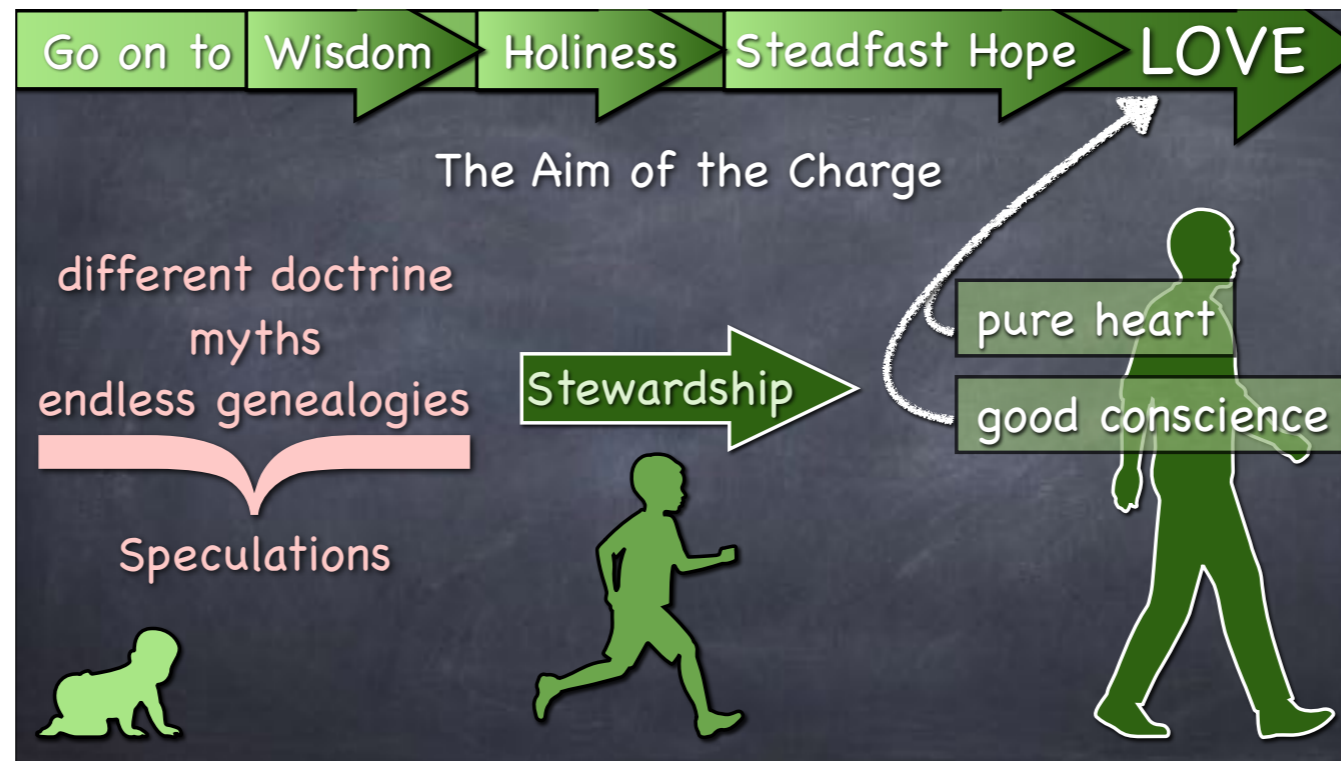
- God wants us to put aside these childish things so that our aim (end, maturity, fulness)
 - is so deeply ingrained in our souls that
 - we are not distracted by the and false doctrines and
 - inviting side roads that beckon us to follow them.



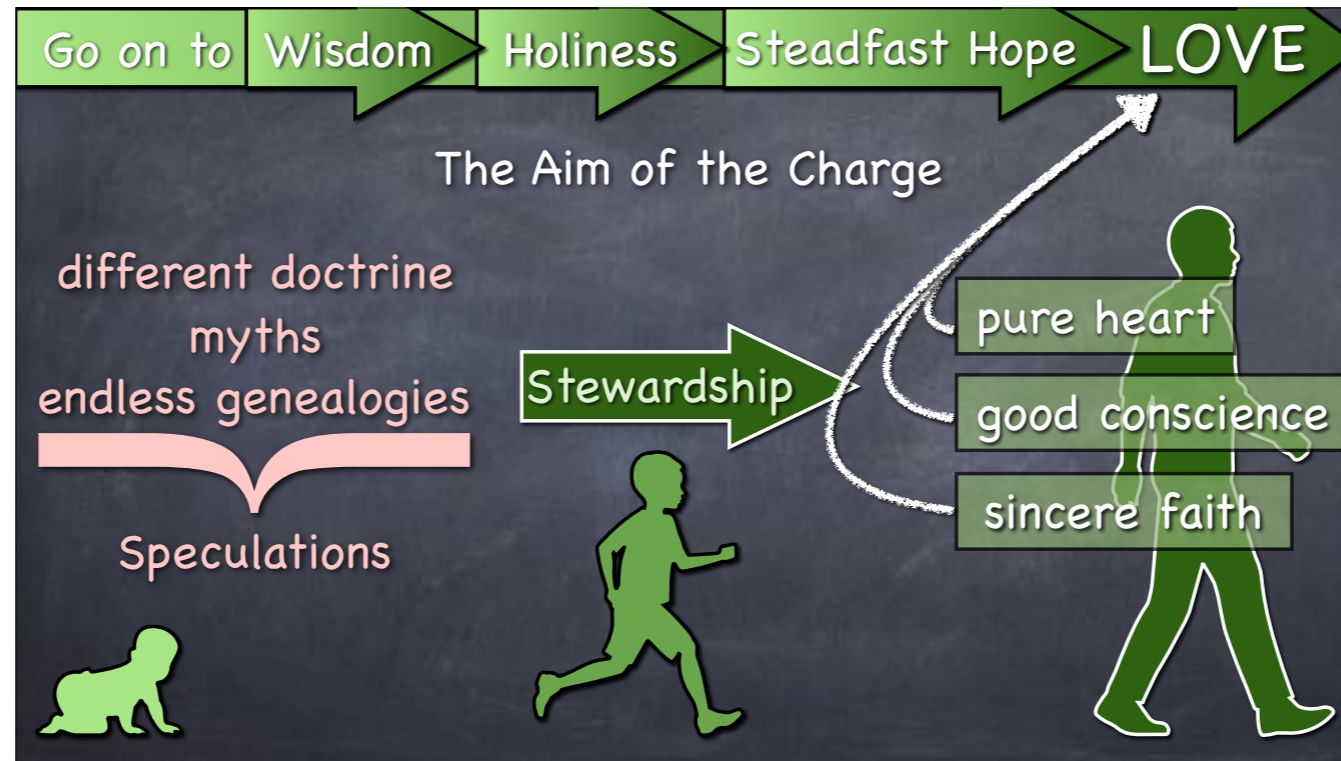
- It's about love!
 - If in all our studies we neglect love, we've missed the point!
 - Today...
 - End of the world, rapture,
 - Nation of Israel
 - Secret messages
- Bending God's word to our own interests.



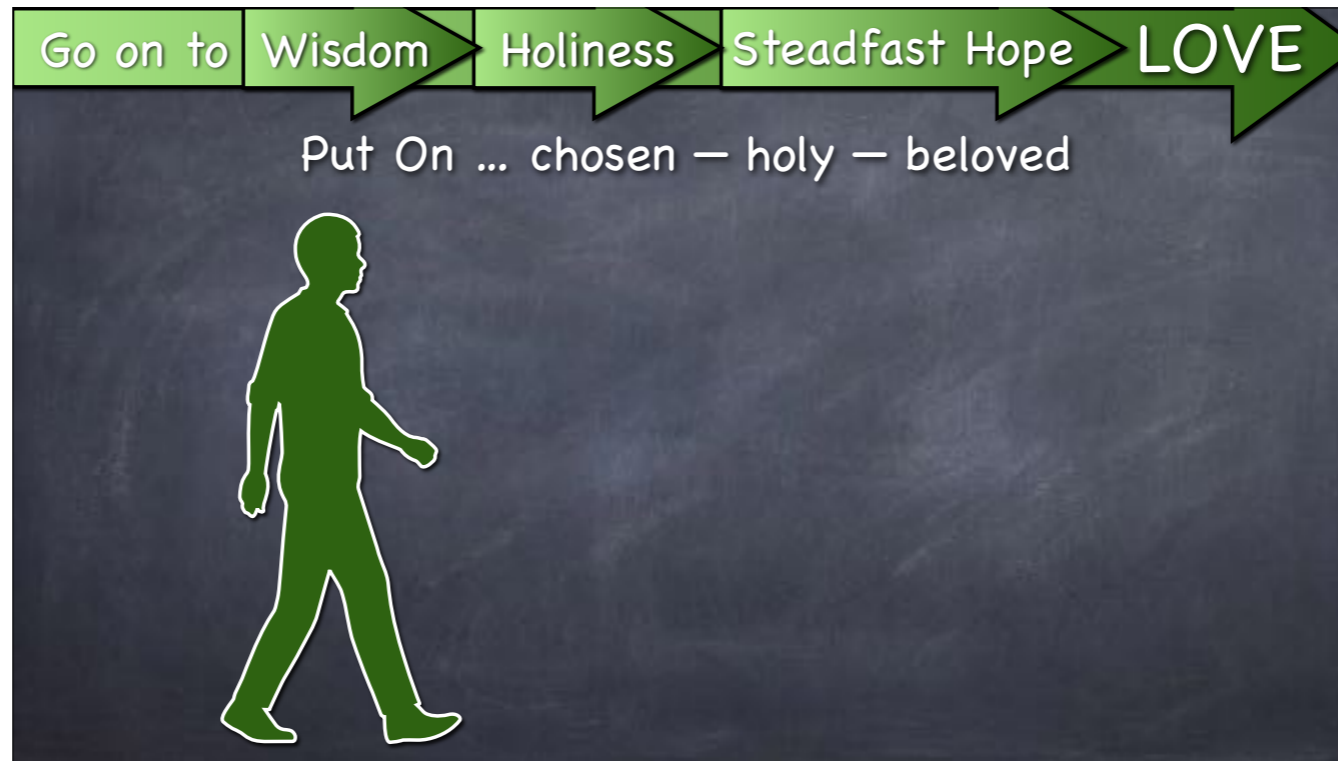
- 1 Timothy 1:5: The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart
- pure = undivided, sincere



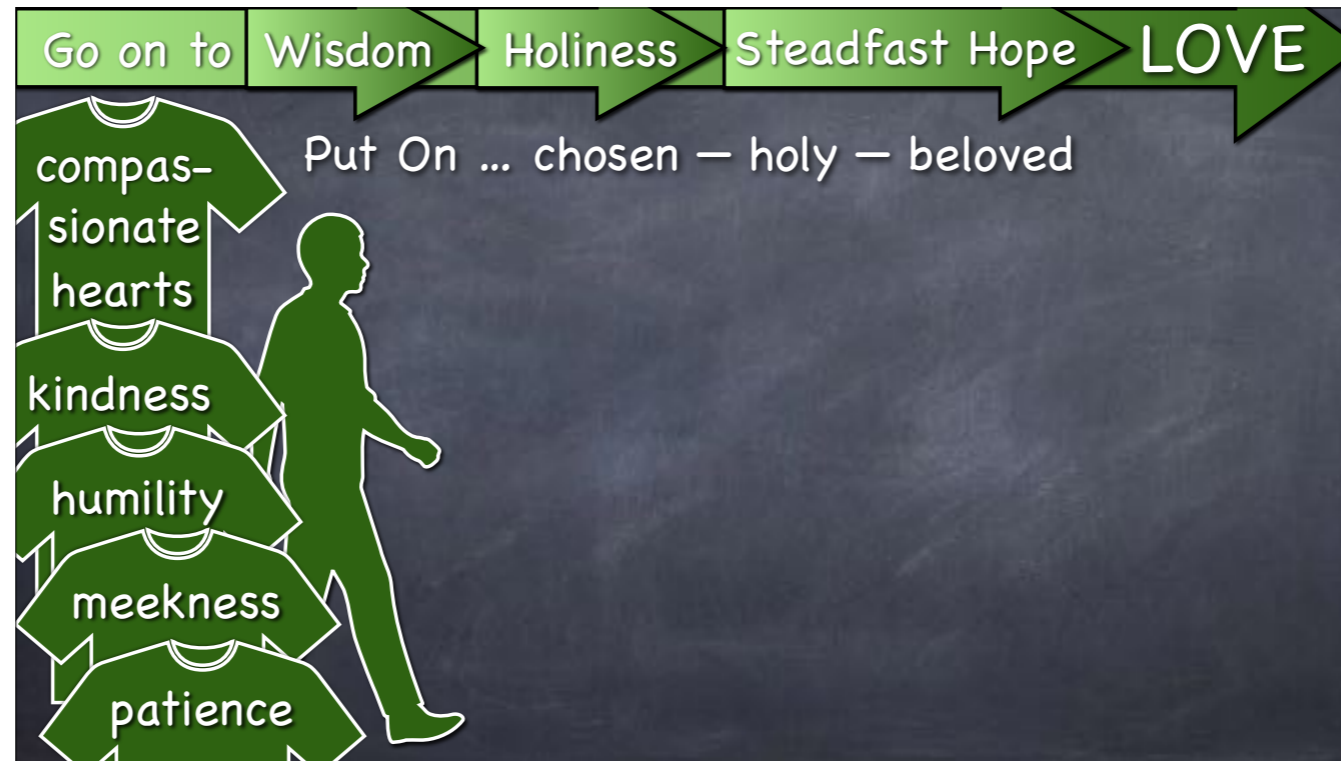
- a good conscience
 - living in such a way that we do what is right
 - others know we do what is right
 - don't live with a guilty conscience



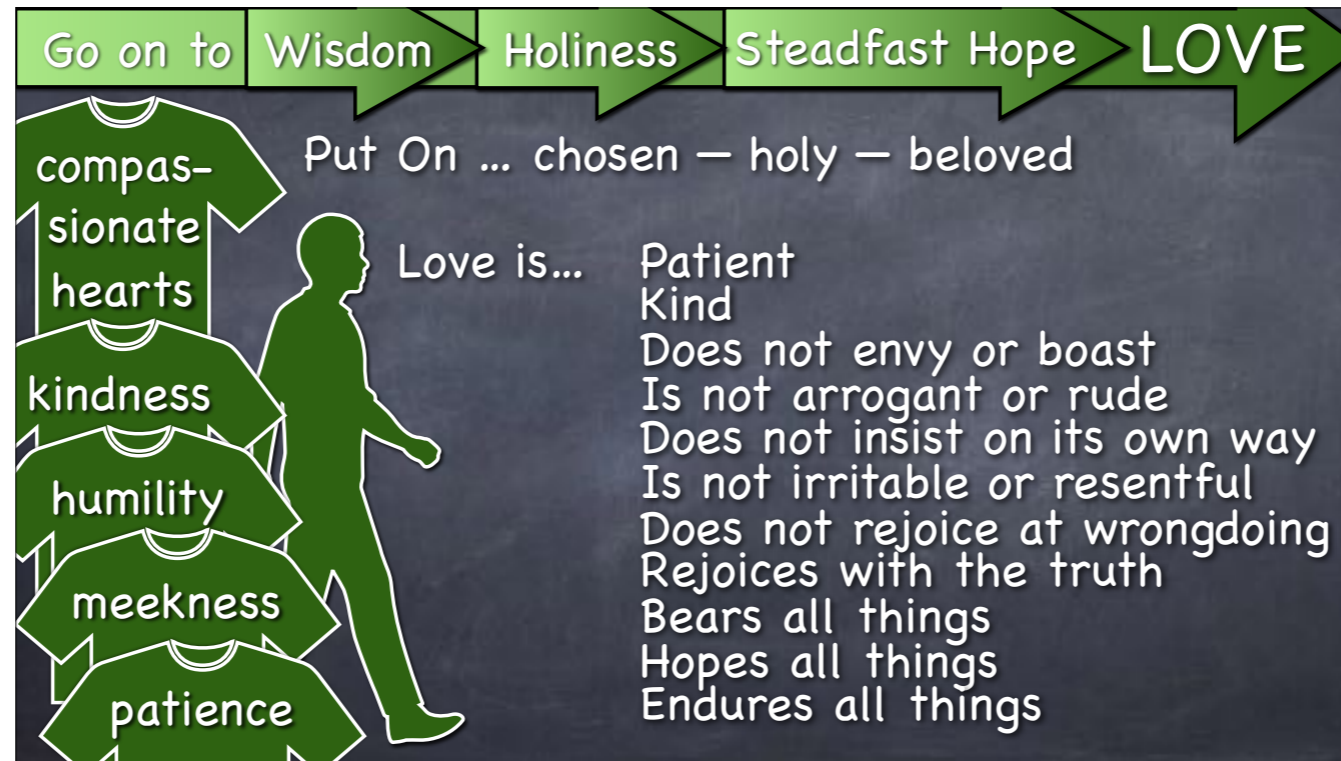
- a sincere faith.
 - unfeigned, not hypocritical
- Is my trust really in God, Jesus
 - Or have I put my trust in my ability to find special, secret knowledge
 - Self



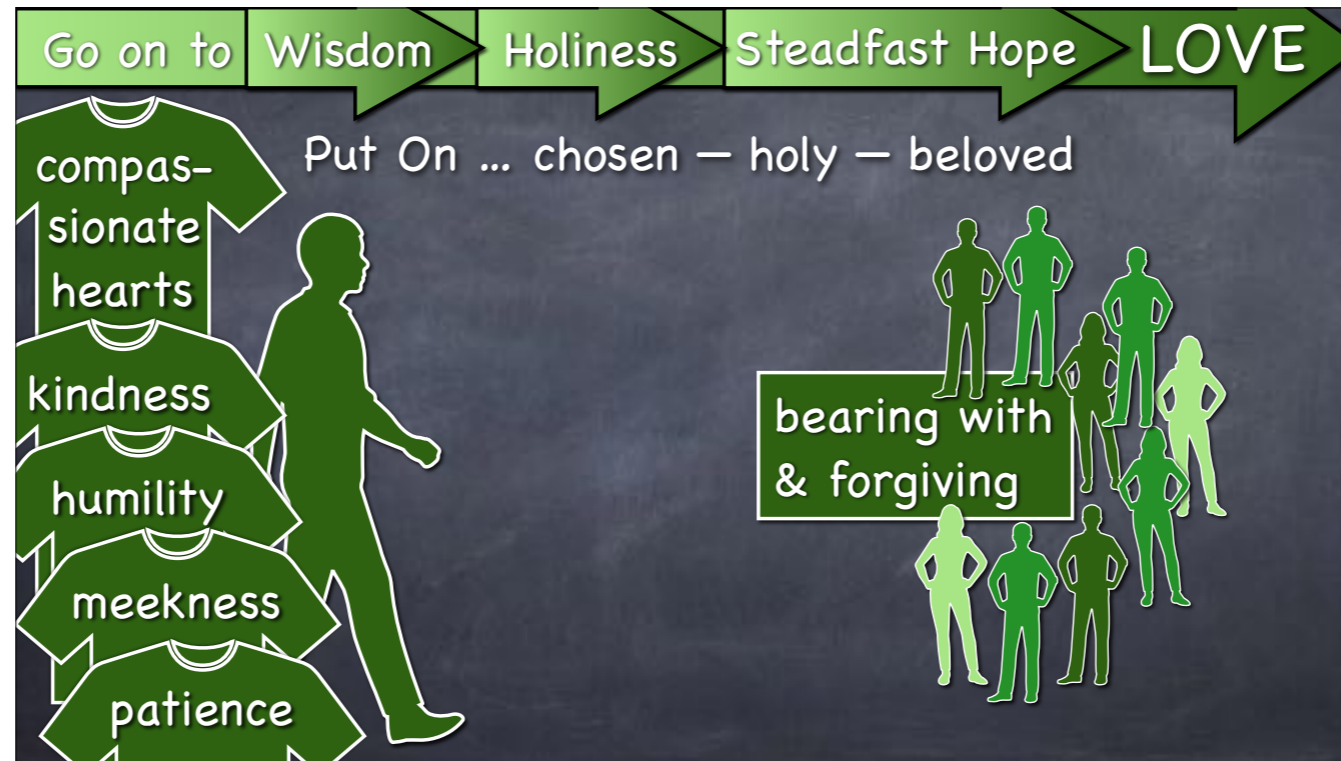
- Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV) 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,



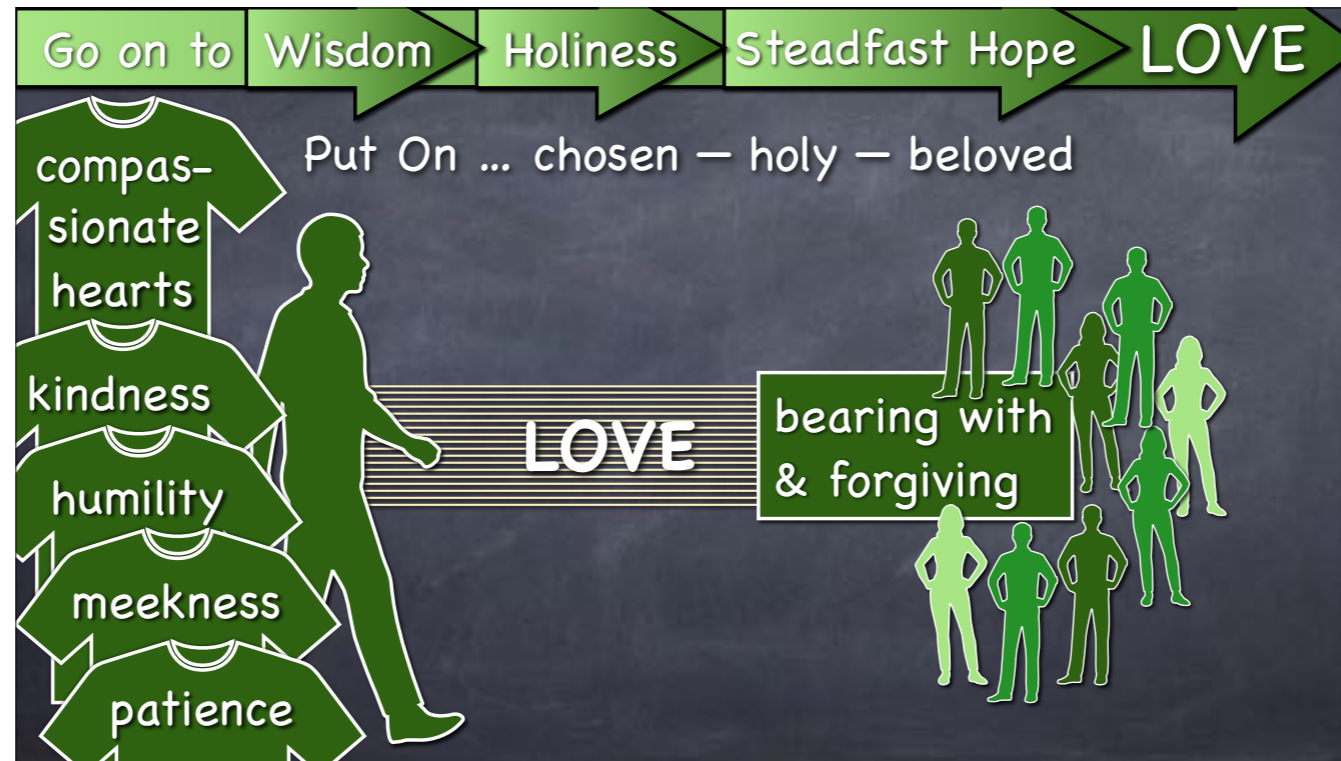
- compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,



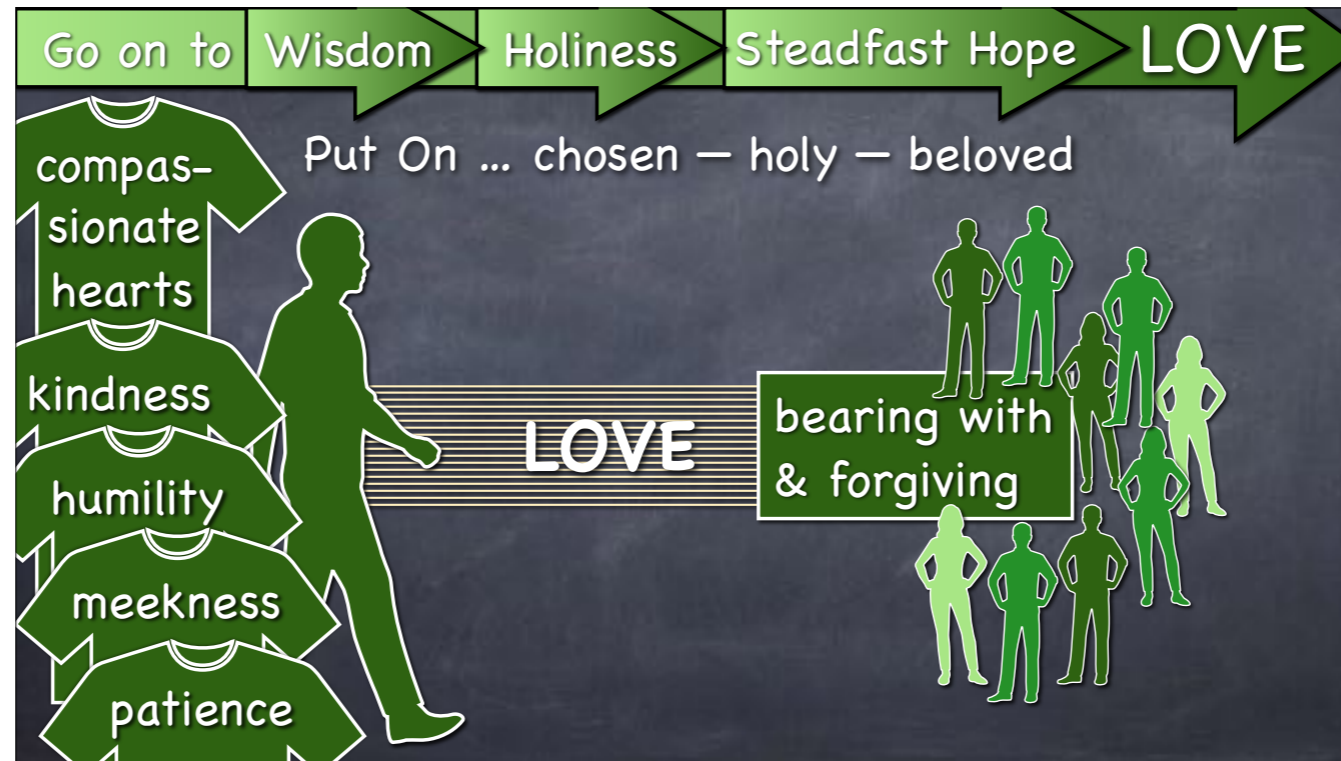
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- Love is patient and kind;
- love does not envy or boast;
- it is not arrogant or rude.
- It does not insist on its own way;
- it is not irritable or resentful;
- it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.
- Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.



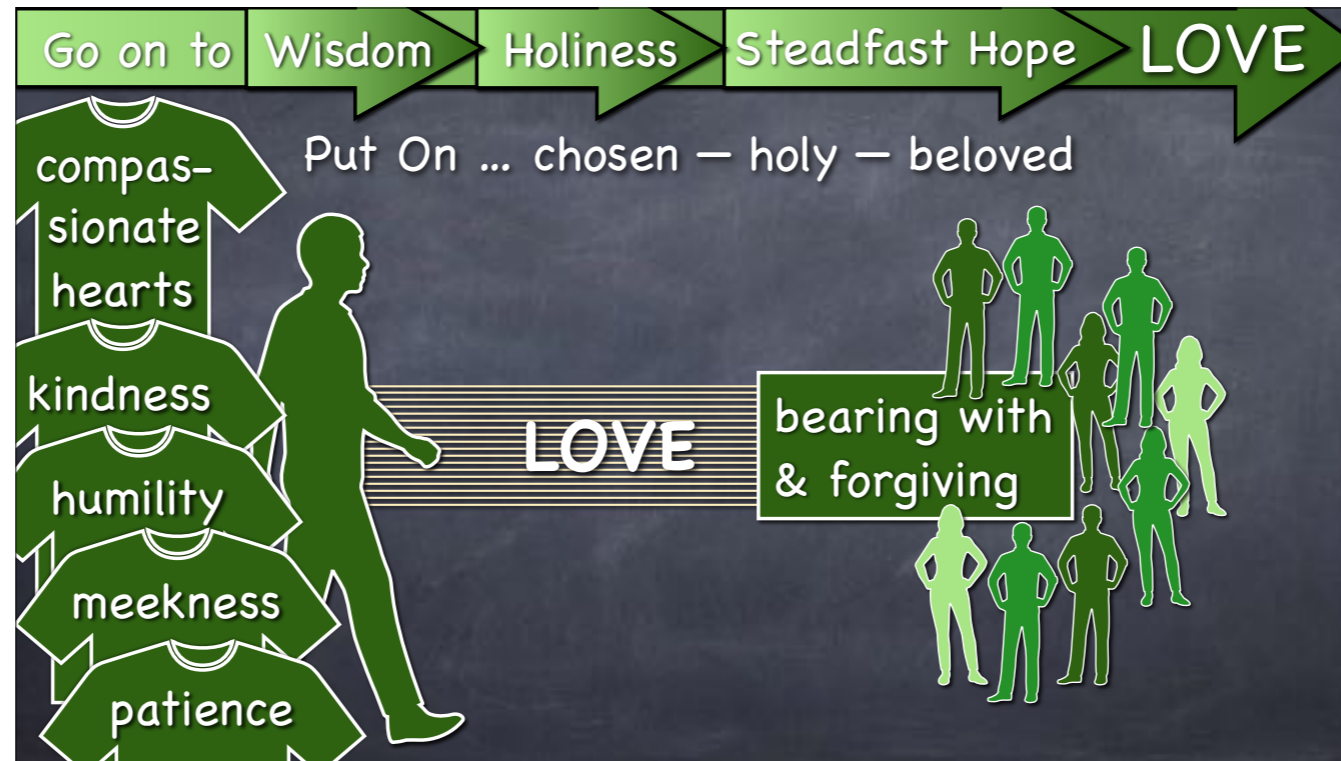
- 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.



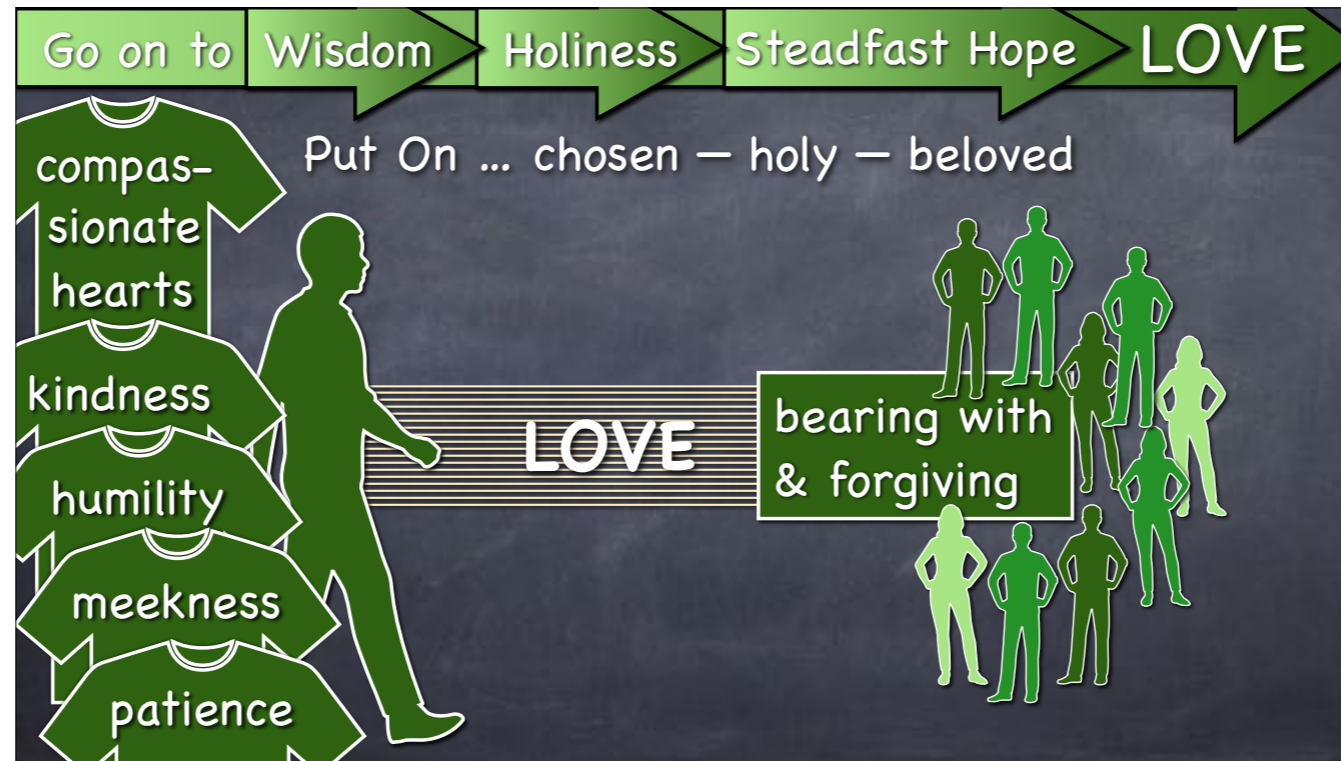
- 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony



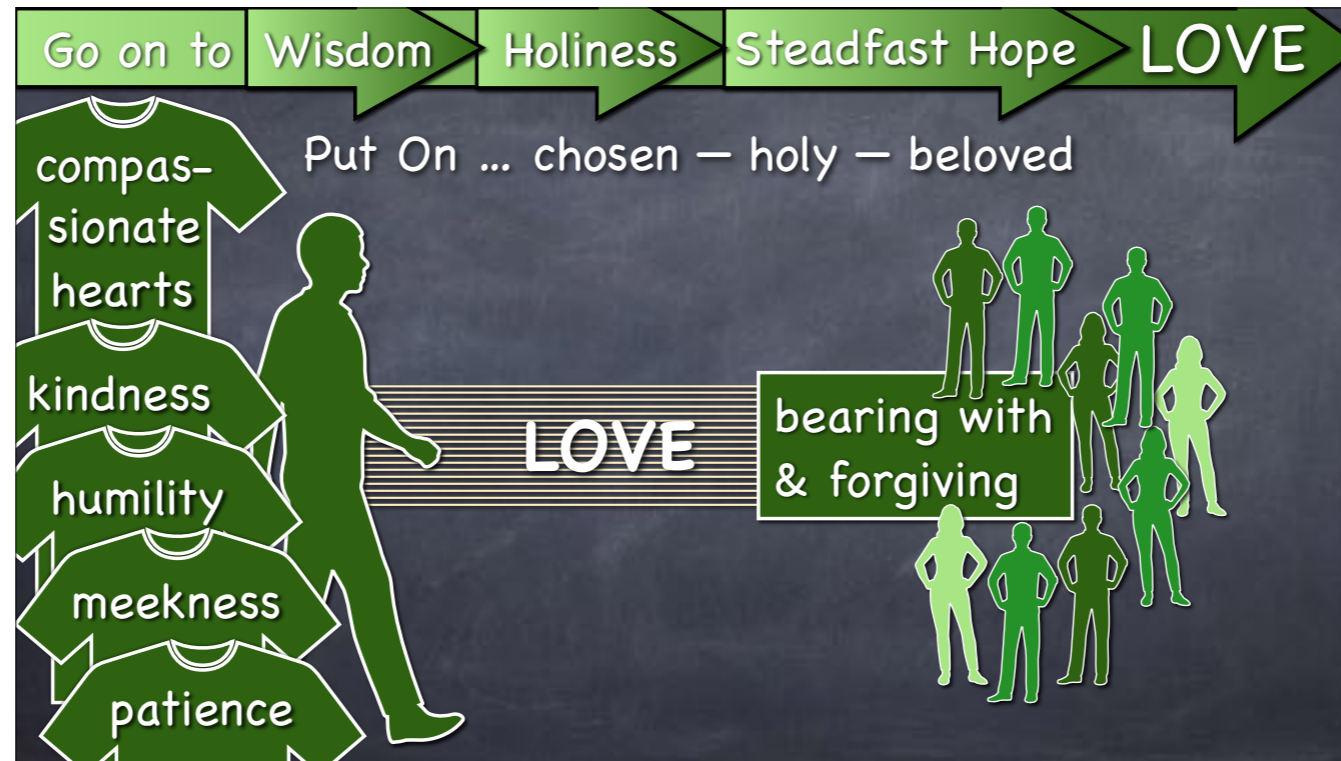
- 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.
- And be thankful.
- 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
- giving thanks to God the Father through him.



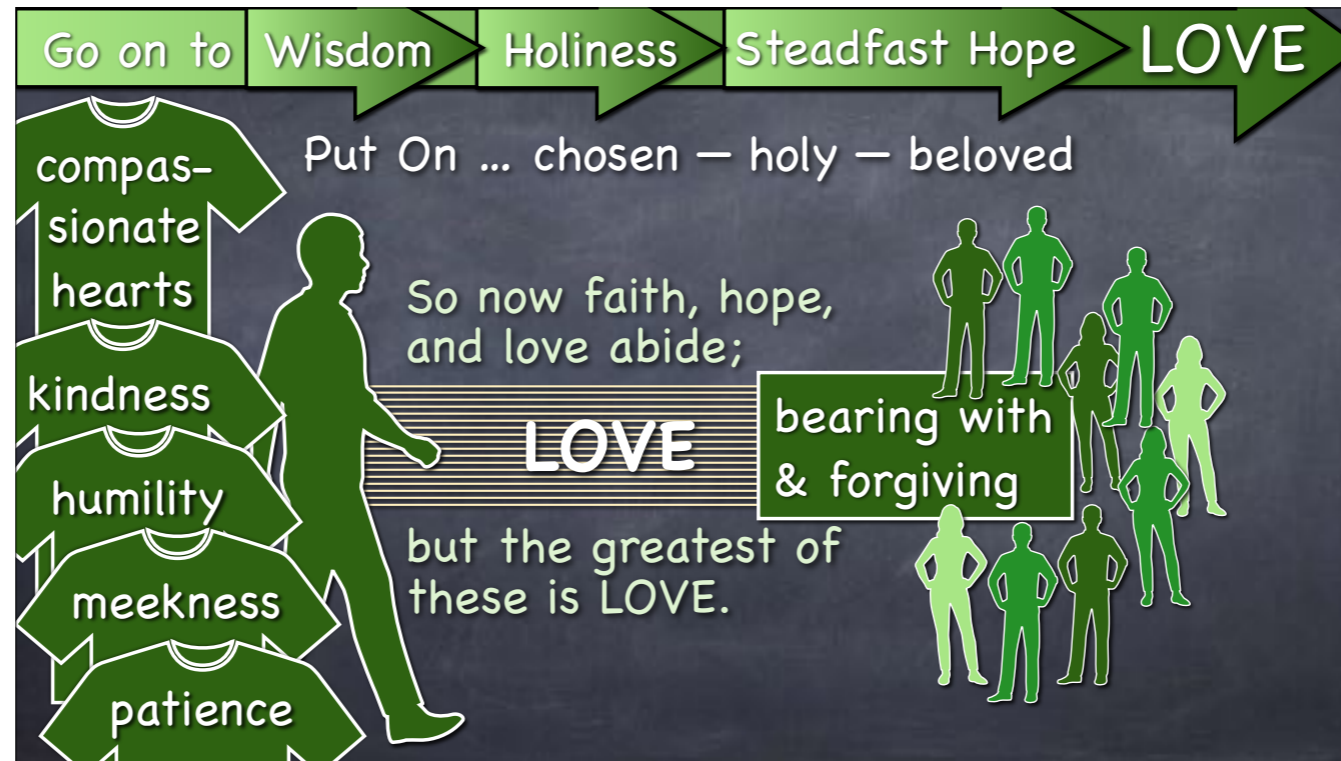
- Too often we measure our maturity in very specific (convenient?) ways
 - Do I hold true to the Truth?
 - Am I faithful? (attendance, contribution)
 - Am I spiritually minded? (prayer, Bible reading)
- All these are very important, necessary but they are not all there is to being mature
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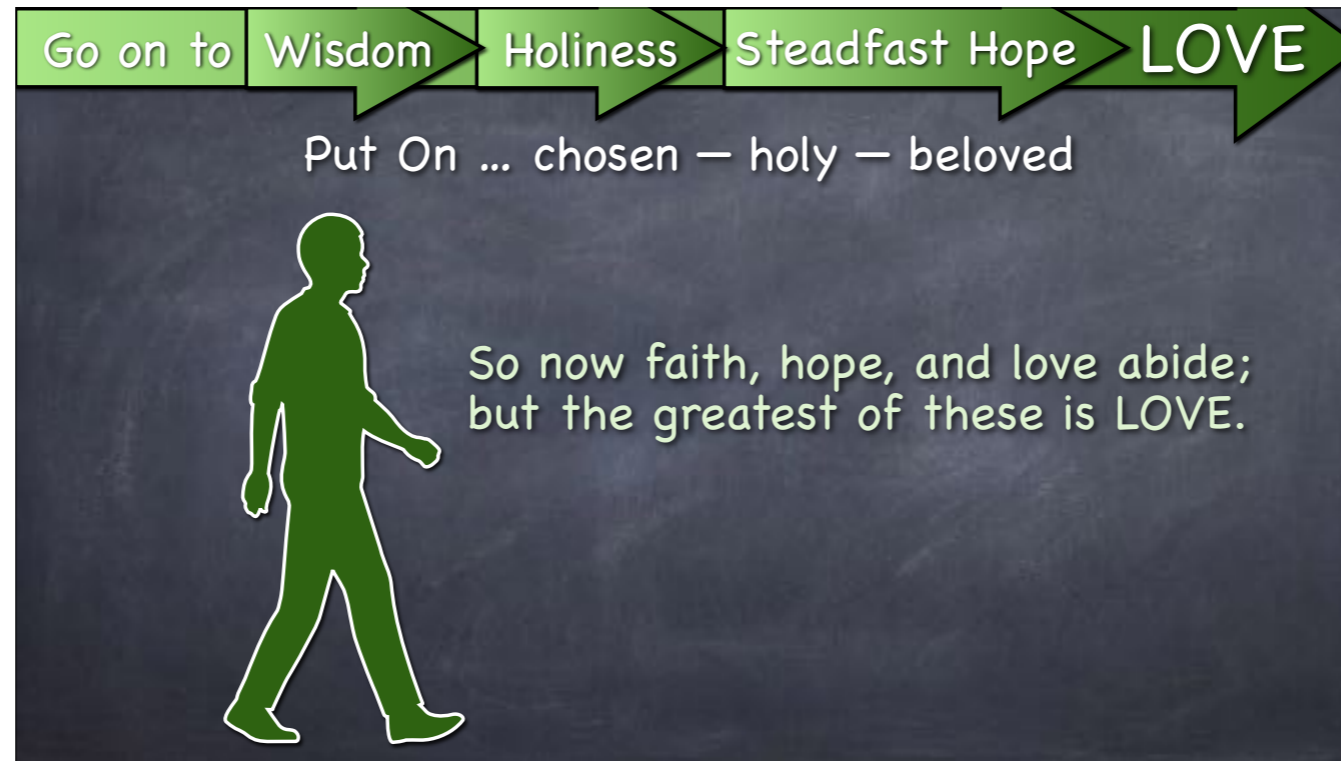
- This passage reminds us that Love,
 - as demonstrated by how I treat my brethren
 - especially when they are being difficult
- Am I willing to be compassionate, kind, humble, meek and patient?
- Will I bear with them? Will I forgive?
- This is mature Christian behavior.



- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- 1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 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 have not love, I am nothing.
- 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.



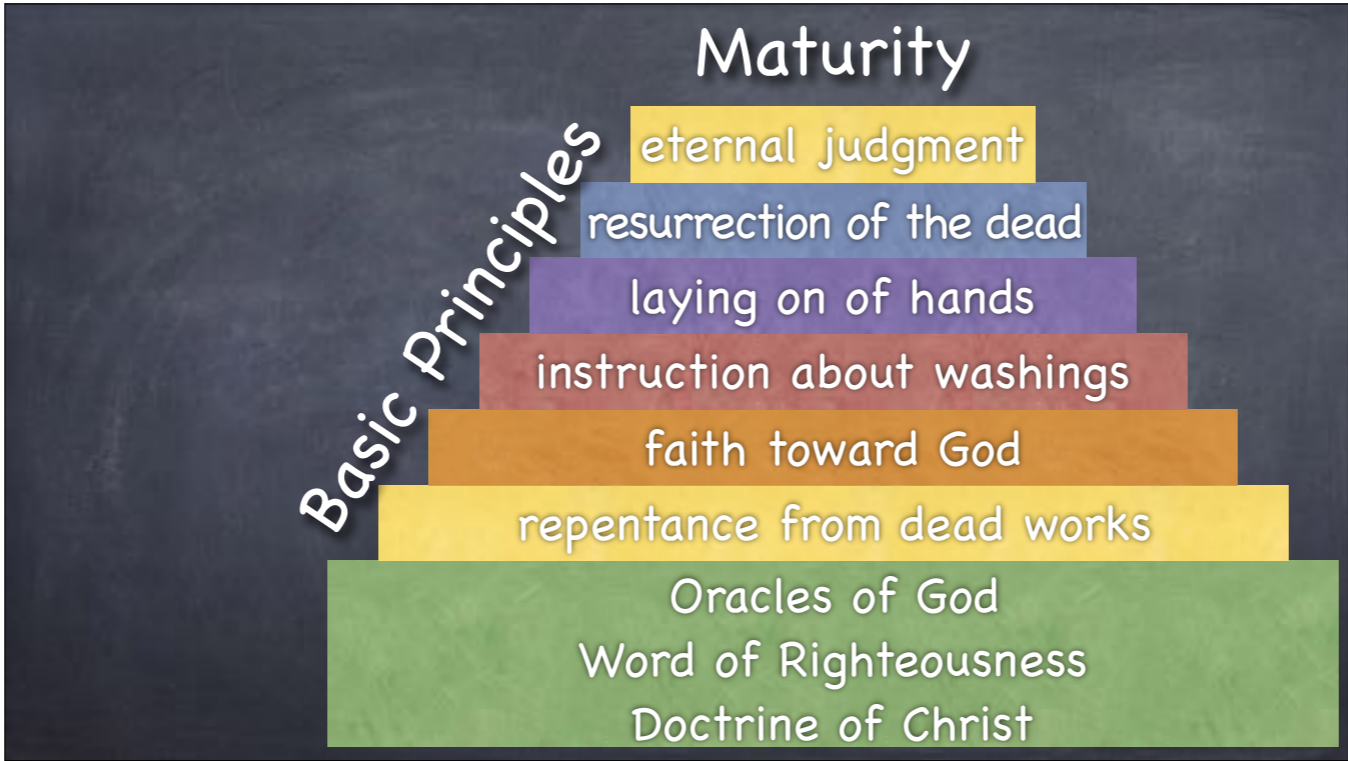
- 1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



- 1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20



- text

Go On To Love

1 Corinthians 13; 1 Timothy 1:5; Colossians 3:14

Synopsis: We must press on to maturity and the epitome of maturity is love: it's the more excellent way; it is our purpose; and we must put it on.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."