

## One Mom's Meditation on 1 Corinthians 13

If I am a mom but don't have love, I am just a woman trying to manage my child's life. If I craft words to communicate perfectly with my child, but have not love, I am a noisy gong. If I have all the answers regarding my child's well-being, and if I serve my child around the clock, but don't have love, I'm just a weary servant. If I give away all I have, and if I offer my body as a place for my child to grow, cling, cry, and cuddle, if I am utterly consumed by motherhood, but have not love, I gain nothing.

But if I burrow myself deep in God's love for me, I will thrive and have something truly nourishing to offer my child. God is patient with me as I figure out how to raise my children. He is kind toward me even when I am hard on myself. He doesn't envy me when I'm thriving as a mom, nor does He boast about how much better He would do it. He is not arrogant or rude toward me even though I show the wear and tear of motherhood. He does not insist on his own way but created me to be the unique, one-of-a-kind, right woman for the job. He is not irritable with me even when I pester Him for help, nor is he resentful of me when I just don't understand. God doesn't rejoice when I mess up, but He loves when I get it right. He believes the truth about me. He bears all my motherhood burdens. He hopes for the best. God endures all things on my behalf and His love for me – and my child – never ends.

I'm working off a limited understanding of motherhood, and what it takes to raise my child. Someday, I will fully understand how much God knows and loves us. But for now, the greatest thing I can do is to let his love surround me, warm my heart, rewire my brain, massage my emotions, guide my actions, permeate my personality, rearrange my schedule, dismantle my defenses, surprise me with answered prayers, and give me every reason to expect something beautiful to grow.

*- Laura Boon*