



# CENTRAL SHELBY CHURCH OF CHRIST

working and worshipping together to serve the Lord



*"Jesus answered and said to her,  
'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst  
again, but whoever drinks of the water that I  
shall give him will become in him a fountain of  
of water springing up into everlasting life.'" (John 4:13, 14)*

## BELIEVETH ALL THINGS

Included in the list of the many attributes of "love" or "charity" (1 Corinthians 13) is this quality: Love "*believeth all things*" (vs. 7). Someone may say, "Oh, yes! That's one of my qualities! I believe everything I hear about my brethren." No! That is nowhere near what the Holy Spirit would have you understand from this passage. In some respects, it is just the opposite.

"The flesh is ready to believe all things about a brother and a fellow man in an evil sense. Love does the opposite, it is confident to the last" (*The Interpretation of 1 & 2 Corinthians*, R.C.H. Lenski).

The one who loves his brother believes the best concerning him. He does not sit at home in a state of wonderment, meditating as to what underhanded motives he can attribute to his brother's doings. (*Evil suspicions*, 1 Timothy 6:4.) Rather, he earnestly desires in his mind to put the conduct of his brother in the best possible light.

Does this mean he is naively gullible? No -- and in his mind he is not seeking to '*justify the wicked*' (Proverbs 17:5). But his attitude is such that, until presented with undeniable proof to the contrary, he will give his brother the benefit of the doubt. To do otherwise would be to judge "*according to appearance*" (a thing our Lord forbade, John 7:24), an answering of a matter before he hears it (Proverbs 18:13). Furthermore, he understands that to "*believe all things*" is simply an application of the 'golden rule,' knowing that he would like to be so treated under similar circumstances (Matthew 7:12).

This attribute causes him, even when he knows he has been wronged by his brother, to go and talk out their differences (Matthew 18:15). Why? Because he wants to "*believe*" the best of his brother, and he as well "*hopes all things*" concerning him (1 Corinthians 13:7). Consequently, when a third party (of whom as well he wishes to "*believe all things*") relates some information of a negative sort about his brother, he will automatically question in his own mind (if not openly) the validity of such. Evidence may be asked for, or he may even take the accuser by the hand to openly confront the accused. Why? He "*believes all things.*"

This is but one of the many attributes of charity. Let each be reminded that *“though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”* It's that important.

--Mike Noble