We should strive to seek the welfare and always think the best of others, insomuch as it is possible.

but rejoices with the truth – See here in the context “rejoices with the truth” is contrasted with “rejoicing in unrighteousness.” Rather than rejoicing over sin or the moral evil of others, love rejoices when others live and walk in truth and integrity, in moral righteousness and goodness or virtue. Love and righteousness are inseparable and knit together. Love rejoices when others are godly and pious, and long to see others be holy and good. Love is zealous to see others live and walk in virtue, and is grieved by the moral failure of others. Also, love rejoices when the truth is told, and the truth prevails and is upheld. Even as God hates lies and lying, and loves integrity and truth, so love rejoices and delights in the same, and along with God, love hates lies and the evil they produce. Surely this also applies to God’s biblical truth and the propagation of it in the world. Love does not rejoice in the wickedness of false doctrine but rather rejoices when the truth is told and is willing to tell the truth for the good and benefit of others. Love would not mislead us but rather will delight in us being led down the path of truth and righteousness. Consider how Paul had to rebuke the Corinthians and they were made sorrowful, yet he rejoiced in the good it ultimately produced in them.

2 Corinthians 7:9-13 - 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter. 12 So although I wrote to you it was not for the sake of the offender, nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God. 13 For this reason we have been comforted. NASB

Surely Paul loved them enough to speak the truth, even if it hurt and created some measure of conflict between them.

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, 8 Love never fails; - Paul now sums up his short love hymn here with a short section of hyperbole, as in verses 1-3, to express the beauty and power of love. He does this to emphasize its character of goodness and righteous virtue, and he does not intend to mean by “all things” that love tolerates everything, God forbid. He has already stated that love rejects the evil of envy, bragging, pride, rudeness, selfishness, hot tempers and un-forgiveness. He uses this hyperbole to express the general character of love and not to push it to limits that go beyond the obvious nature of God, for even God’s patience and forbearance eventually turn to indignation and wrath at some point when His forgiving grace is rejected. Even so love, has a gracious, forbearing and hopeful positive character, but not to a point that is destructive or unrighteous.

7 bears all things - The word here for “bear” means to cover and this is why the NIV renders this “always protects.” Love is very concerned for the welfare of others therefore it protects and covers offenses and sins, rather than broadcasting them and exposing others to ridicule and shame. It does not seek to expose, exploit or gloat over others weaknesses and failures, but rather covers these whenever possible. And it is not always possible, for often times the most loving thing that one can do is to expose the sin
of another, but wisdom must be exercised here in love. Love abhors gossip for it seeks to expose and publicly malign, but love seeks to cover and forgive others.

Proverbs 10:12 - 12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions. NASB
1 Peter 4:8 - 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. NASB

“All things” here seems better rendered “always,” for love clearly does not bear and endure evil, but rather is opposed to it, even if it wages war against it with kindness and forgiveness. In either case, love will not bear forever with evil, nor will it bear all kinds and degrees of evil, but will like God deal with it according to God’s will and righteousness. There comes a point in time when forbearance must turn to tough love that confronts and reproves, but whenever a sinner repents, he is to be forgiven.

Matthew 18:21-22 - 21 Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” NASB

We must be careful not to push Paul’s use of hyperbole here beyond its limit, but hold it in the proper balance of love’s general character and righteousness, exercised in wisdom.

believes all things - This is probably better rendered, as the NIV, “always trusts,” which does not mean that it is gullible, it doesn’t blindly just accept any false report but is willing to get the facts about a situation and establish a true testimony before making a rational response. Because love believes all things, it prefers to be generous in its openness and acceptance rather than suspicious and cynical. Love wants to trust and is always hoping for the best, even when disappointed by repeated personal abuse, it continues hoping against hope, and always ready to give an offender a second chance and ready to forgive him. Love wants to believe the best about others, and seeks to see them in the best light possible, with a most charitable and kind repose. Love produces this, because it rejoices in the happiness and virtue of others, and will not believe the contrary except on obvious evidence.

hopes all things - Here again better rendered, as the NIV, “always hopes,” love’s quality is to hope that all will turn out well. In the same way that love wants to trust in the best of others, it longs to see others receive the best and is not vengeful or vindictive, but rather seeks the blessing and prosperity of others whenever possible. It is hoping for the best possible situation for others, and lives and walks in such a way as to see it come to pass. Since love always hopes for the best, it takes action that brings about the best outcome for others whenever possible. It wants to believe the best of others because it hopes the best for them. Love will do this, because it delights in the virtue and happiness of others, and will not credit anything to the contrary unless compelled to do so. Love always hopes for the best.

Proverbs 24:17-18 - 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; 18 Lest the Lord see it and be displeased, And He turn away His anger from him. NASB

endures all things - Here again better rendered, as the NIV, “always perseveres,” the idea is to bear up under suffering, particularly in how we are treated by others. Remember the context of this being how we love and serve one another in the church. Because love protects, trusts, and hopes the best of others, it is also willing to suffer insult and injury from them with a calm repose whenever possible, in hopes that reconciliation can take place and loving relations can be restored again. Loves perseveres through the difficulty of relationships because people are important and love rejoices in

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