

**Item #107 (A Note on Reacting to “Forever”)**

**It is not always realized** what the effects of the resurrection from the death of Jesus Christ are. With the resurrection, Christ’s humanity shares in the effects of His divinity. And this implies that the humanity, like the divinity, will never cease to exist. And this in turn implies that all those who share in the resurrection of Jesus will exist forever. (See 1 Corinthians 15,12-58). The word “forever” is used regularly of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy of the Church, but rarely of the believing faithful. In what will this “forever” consist? Once again a look at St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians indicates what characterizes those who live for all eternity: they will love (cf. 1 Corinthians 13,1-13). And the preparation for this statement of Paul is the teaching of Jesus that love is the mark of His followers (John 13,31-35). And, to draw out an implication from all of the above, it is “love” that makes “forever” bearable. **(James Swetnam, S.J., November 8, 2023)**