

## **Common Rule**

### **Chapter 1 Paragraph 5**

**1 January 2019**

**God is not to be feared , as there is no fear in love. God's love.**

**God's love endures forever,**

**And nothing can come between us and God's love for us -NOTHING.**

*Perfect love cast out all fear. When I look back over large parts of adult life New Year's Day for me was a day full of fear and worry. I would worry about who I was going to let down in the year ahead, what was going to go wrong , who was going to fail or abandon me. I was anxious about how I was going to survive the coming year, or if I really even wanted to. I was not thinking about how God's love endures forever and that with that love I had nothing to fear. I was not thinking about that because I was not sure that God loved me. I feared God, I feared God's judgment because I had been taught at different times, from different sources that God was going to judge me for being Gay, for using drugs, for drinking for a number of things including dying my hair.*

*This year is very different, I am a week away from starting a very intense, accelerated graduate school program, after having not completed three previous attempts at graduate school, and "only" being conditionally admitted to this one; and I am not afraid, worried, or scarred in any way. In fact, you could say that I am confident and excited to move past the conditions placed on my admission and move forward. Why? one may ask, quite simply because God's love cast out all fear. No matter what comes up during this first term, no matter what challenges I may face, God's love is there to face them with me because nothing, nothing absolutely nothing (did I mention nothing) can separate me from this love-NOTHING. God's love endures, bears, persist prevails, triumphs wins out, last, withstands, sustains, braves, puts up with, forever.*

**It has always been this way, and always will be.**

*The thing about God's love is that even back when I was living a fear-based life, worried that God was going to judge me and condemn me for all of the reasons that all of those other people said he was going to including the women who dyed their hair and told me God was going to judge me for doing so because I was a man; all that time God was waiting patiently with her loving arms open waiting to hold me, love me and be persist with me forever. I just needed to open my eyes and ears to see and hear her.*

Anthony-Paul