

# 1 Corinthians 13

No. 54

1. Today I would like to speak on 1 Corinthians 13, which is one of the greatest chapters of the Bible.
  - a. It is a chapter known and loved by millions of people. It is a chapter that has had a great impact on humanity and would revolutionize the world if were practiced by more people.
  - b. **It is a chapter that is very close to my heart.** Years ago my sister and I accepted Christ one Sunday morning. That day the preacher spoke on the theme “The Most Excellent Way.” He used as his text 1 Corinthians the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter. I would like for us to take a careful look at this beautiful and inspirational chapter.
2. Paul closed the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter with these words. “ **But desire earnestly the greater gifts. And moreover a most excellent way show I unto you.**” (1 Cor. 12:31).
3. The most excellent way is described in 1 Corinthians 13. Read chapter

**1. If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. 2. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3. And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing. 4. Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5. doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; 6. rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; 7. beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8. Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away. 9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10. but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. 11. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things. 12. For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. 13. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.**

## Importance of Love

**1. If I speak with [all] the tongues [languages] of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become**

**sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.** Acts 2:4, 5, 8; 1 Cor. 12:10.

- a. Some examples of people who speak in a number of tongues or languages today.
  - b. I know one local man, a brother in Christ, who speaks 5 languages. I met one man years ago who spoke 14 languages.
- 2. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries [every kind of hidden truth] and all knowledge; and if I have all [absolute, perfect] faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing [big zero, useless].**
- a. Prophecy is teaching - past, present, future.
  - b. **Moses was a prophet of God.** He wrote about creation, the flood, Abraham a number of other things by revelation and inspiration. He occasionally gave a prophecy, but most of what he said was to his contemporaries.
- 3. And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing.** One give up his life out of vain glory or protest.

#### **Description of Love**

- 4. Love suffereth long [endures evil], and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself [does not brag nor anxious to impress], is not puffed up [filled with humility, not conceited],**
- a. Rom. 12:19-21... Eph. 4:32.
  - b. Love never boils over with envy or jealousy
  - c. Love is not conceited or puffed up. It does does put other down.
- 5. doth not behave itself unseemly [rudely, unmannerly], seeketh not its own, is not provoked [to anger or resentment], taketh not account of evil;**
- a. “seeketh not its own” is perhaps the best definition of love ever given. **This was true of Jesus.**
  - b. “is not provoked” - **The one who loves is not easily provoked. Anger is very dangerous. ( Eph. 4:26, 27).**
  - c. keeps no score of wrongs. Love is forgiving. (Matt. 18:21, 22).
- 6. rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth;**
- a. does not gloat over men’s sins.
  - b. Sad when others fall into sin..glad when truth and righteousness prevail. **The one who loves sides with truth.**
- 7. beareth [endures, overlooks, covers] all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**

- a. Love does not tell everything it knows. It does not gossip.
- b. Love trusts - not gullible, not suspicious. **Eager to believe best.** Though the world is sinful, it is optimistic.
- c. It is willing to endure hardships and persecutions. (Matt. 5:10-12).

### **Duration of Love**

**8. Love never faileth [ends]: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues [languages], they shall cease; whether there be [supernatural, miraculous] knowledge, it shall be done away.** Prophecy is teaching -past, present, future.

### **Knowledge**

**9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part;** “bit by bit” or “part by part.”

**10. but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away;**

- a. The word “perfect” here is neuter in gender and does not refer to Christ.
- b. Perfect is God’s complete revelation. (Jn. 16:13; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3).

**11. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things.** It is normal for children to think and act like children. When they mature, they put away childish things.

**12. For now we see in a mirror, darkly [dimly, obscurely]; but then [when Revelation is completed] face to face [clearly]: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known.**

**13. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.**

- a. Faith, hope and love are all great, but love is the greatest of all gifts.
  - 1) Miracles would end in time when the perfect will of God had been revealed.
  - 2) **Faith and hope** would last to the end of time. They are for this world. Heb. 11:1; Rom. 8:24.
  - 3) **Love** is the greatest. It never ends. It is eternal.
- b. Love is also the greatest gift because it has had the **greatest influence**.
  - 1) It motivates us to work for our children and others.
  - 2) Love motivated God to give His Son for us. (Jn. 3:16).

### **Conclusion.**

- 1. Love should motivate us to love God back and treat others with kindness, consideration, and respect.

2. Won't you love God back. Won't you spend all your days loving God and others. Completely surrender your life to Him. Come as we stand and sing.