

1 Corinthians, Part 4

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 1 Corinthians 13.
- B. Christians should establish goals. (Romans 12:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- C. Love is to be established as a goal.

II. The character of love makes it worthy of a goal.

- A. Love is intrinsically supreme because of its divine qualities. (1 John 4:16)
 - 1. There is erotic love that is self-focused, friendship love that is mutual, and divine love that is altruistic.
 - 2. The divine love is supreme because it is altruistic.
- B. Divine love is supreme because it is unique.
- C. Love is supreme because of its enduring qualities.
- D. Love is supreme because of its eternal qualities. The gifts are limited because they will eventually be terminated.

III. Love has to be established as a goal by an act of the will.

- A. Love is something you do whether you feel it or not.
- B. God does not tell us to like everybody, but He does tell us to love everyone.
- C. To love is to be concerned with the well being of the object of love despite the object's merits.

IV. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

- A. The spark is obedience.
- B. The fuel is dependence.

V. Necessary actions.

- A. We must evaluate our relationships.
- B. We may need to reconcile being prepared to take initiative and to reject.
- C. We must be ready to consolidate making sure that we do not get in the mess we did before.
- D. With existing relationships we must be prepared to fulfill the divine directive.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to distinguish loving from liking?

2. How would you describe divine love to someone who has never heard of it?

3. What actions may God be calling you to take this week in light of the message? Explain.
