

Love

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I. Introduction.

A. 1 Corinthians 13.

II. Love is serving.

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B. God gives us his power with interest towards serving the church.

C. There are many gifts: a special faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

D. Each of us is a part of the Body of Christ filled with the same Holy Spirit.

E. We are to help each other. (Philippians 4)

F. Everyone does not have everyone else's gift.

G. Love is fulfilling one's gifts through obedience in the Body. (John 14:21, 1 Peter 2:18, Proverbs 12, John 14:34-35)

III. Characteristics of love. (1 Corinthians 13)

A. Love is patient and kind. This means that it is long suffering. (1 Peter 2:20-21)

B. Love is not boastful or proud.

C. Love is not selfish or rude. (Proverbs 16:2, Isaiah 53:6)

D. Love is not irritable or touchy.

E. Love does not hold grudges.

1. We want to see people forgiven not proven wrong. (Matthew 5)

2. Do not be afraid to apologize.

3. The spiritual person goes the extra mile. (Matthew 5:41)

4. Truth is never glad about injustice but when it wins out. (Proverbs 12:19)

F. Love is loyal.

1. If you love someone you will stand your ground defending him.

2. Love covers sin.

G. Love fulfills your role in the body of Christ. (Matthew 1:19)

1. Our example of love is God who so loved he gave. (John 3:16)

2. All God wants from us is to fulfill our gift in the body of Christ and not look down upon others.

Application questions

1. Why is the context of 1 Corinthians important for understanding love?

2. Which characteristic of love in 1 Corinthians 13 stands out to you? Why?

3. What area of your life do you find it difficult to love in? How can a better understanding of love help you deal with that area?

I Corinthians 13

Living Bible

If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise.

If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love.

If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever.

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong.

It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.

If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.

All the special gifts and powers from God will some day come to an end, but love goes on forever. Some day prophecy, and speaking in unknown languages, and special knowledge - these gifts will disappear.

Now we know so little, even with our special gifts, and the preaching of those most gifted is still so poor.

But when we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end, and they will disappear.

It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things.

In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.

There are three things that remain - faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love.