



ETERNAL  
LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13

## 1 Corinthians 13

**1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.**

**2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.**

**3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.**

## **1 Corinthians 13 - continued**

**4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,**

**5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;**

**6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;**

**7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**

**8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.**

## **1 Corinthians 13 - continued**

**9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.**

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

**11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

**12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**

**13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.**

# **Introduction**

## **A. Some thoughts about God's love**

### **1. Remembering God's great love to us**

**Ephesians 2:4**

**But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love  
wherewith he loved us,**

### **2. The cross, the greatest demonstration of God's love**

**1 John 4:10**

**Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved  
us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

# Introduction

## A. Thoughts about love - continued

### 3. The problem of Corinth was a lack of love

#### 1 Corinthians 3:3

**For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?**

#### 2 Corinthians 13:11

**Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.**

# Introduction

## B. The power of love

### 1. Love conquers all bickering and brings blessing

**Romans 12:9**

**Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.**

### 2. Love builds fellowship and restores faith

**John 13:35**

**By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

# **Introduction**

## **B. The power of love - continued**

### **3. Love draws together and brings lost sinners to salvation**

#### **Romans 10:1**

**Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.**



# **I. The Powerlessness Of Service Without Love (13:1-3)**

**A. The whole gospel message is God's great love story**

**John 15:13**

**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

**B. Speaking without love is just noise**

**1. No matter how you speak – you are weak without love**

**2. No matter your words – they are worthless without love**

**3. No matter how sincere – you will fail without love**

**Ephesians 4:15**

**But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**

# **I. The Powerlessness Of Service Without Love**

## **(13:1-3)**

**C. Spiritual gifts without love are just nothing**

**1 Corinthians 12:31**

**But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.**

**D. Sacrifice without love is just nonsense**

**John 12:5**

**Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?**

## **II. The Practical Effects Of Love**

### **(13:4-7)**

**A. Love suffereth long. (Puts up with many things)**

**Proverbs 19:11**

**The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and *it is* his glory to pass over a transgression.**

**Matthew 18:21**

**Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?**

## **II. The Practical Effects Of Love (13:4-7)**

**B. Love is kind. (The positive side of love)**

**Ephesians 4:32**

**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

## **II. The Practical Effects Of Love (13:4-7)**

**C. Love envieth not. (Envy springs from catering to self)**

**Mark 10:37**

**They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.**

**Mark 10:41**

**And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.**

## **II. The Practical Effects Of Love (13:4-7)**

**D. Love vaunteth not itself, Is not puffed up**

**Mark 10:28**

**Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.**

**E. Does not behave itself unseemly. Seeketh not her own.**

**Philippians 2:4**

**Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.**

## **II. The Practical Effects Of Love (13:4-7)**

**F. Is not easily provoked. (Not irritable)**

**James 1:19**

**Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:**

**G. Thinketh no evil. (Hardly notices when others do it wrong)**

**H. Rejoiceth not in iniquity. (Never glad about unrighteousness)**

**Acts 8:23**

**For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.**

## **II. The Practical Effects Of Love (13:4-7)**

**I. Rejoiceth in the truth. Beareth all things.**

**Proverbs 26:20**

**Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.**

**J. Believeth all things. (Instead of looking for little faults, love expects the best)**

**1 Peter 4:8**

**And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**



# **III. The Permanence Of Love**

## **(13:8-13)**

**A. Love remains when everything else goes obsolete (v 8)**

**B. We are incomplete until Christ returns (vv 9-12)**

**C. We must continue in love until Christ returns (v 13)**

**Hebrews 13:1**

**Let brotherly love continue.**

**1 John 4:16-17**

**16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**

**17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.**

# **III. The Permanence Of Love**

## **(13:8-13)**

**D. Love is the starting point**

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**

**23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

**Full Surrender To The Holy Spirit  
Produces This Love In Us**