

3. _____ of love (v.8-13)

1 Corinthians 13:8 Love never fails, but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

"but" – comparison

1 Corinthians 13:9–10 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

"when the perfect comes" - full, completed.

1 Corinthians 13:11–12 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

"dimly" - means a riddle, or indirect language.

1 Corinthians 13:13 But now abide faith, hope, love— these three; but the greatest of these is love.

"abide" – dwell in, continue in, stay on.

Point: the permanence of love should solidify the _____ of love in the Christian life: the highest calling and greatest priority.

BLANKS: self-giving, Preeminence, words, gifts, Nature, Permanence, place.

Adult Sunday School

Topic: A More Excellent Way

Text: 1 Corinthians 13

Date: 7/21/2024

Immediate Context:

- Read 12:1/14:1 –
- Read 12:31 –

Distant Context:

- Read 1:1-9 –
- Read 1:10-12 –

Condemnations of Corinthians:

- Divisive and quarrelsome (1:10-12)
- Jealous, divisive, and contentious (3:1-4)
- Judgmental (4:5)
- Apathetic and arrogant (5:1-2)
- Harmful and defrauding (6:8)
- Immature with truth (7:1)
- Arrogant in knowledge, inconsiderate (8:11-12)
- Divisive, drunkards, and disrespectful (11:17-21)
- Unrepentant and undiscerning (11:29-30)

1 Corinthians 12:31 But you earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I will yet show you a more excellent way.

"a more excellent" – Gr. "hyperbole"

What is love? 1 John 4:8 – God is love.

Definition: love is rooted in God and exemplified in Christ which means that love is _____ for the good of others.

2. _____ of love (v.4-7)

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind, is not jealous, does not brag, is not puffed up; it does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered; it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- "patient" – long-tempered.
- "kind" – being good-natured in seeking and serving for the good of others.
- "is not jealous" –being consumed with getting what you do not have or evil falling upon those who do have it.
- "does not brag" – does not boast about oneself for personal glory.
- "is not puffed up" – to inflate, blow up; to be filled with pride, arrogance.
- "it does not act unbecomingly" – to behave or live in a disgraceful, dishonorable, unseemly, and improper way.
- "does not seek its own" –a preoccupation with self-interest.
- "is not provoked" – not stirred up, incited, irritated.
- "does not take into account a wrong suffered" – when evil is done against us, we do not record it for future reference. We do not hold against or hold over.
- "it does not rejoice in unrighteousness" – "rejoice" – be glad, have joy. "unrighteousness" – "unrightness".
- "but rejoices in the truth" –love values, treasures, and finds joy in the truth.
- "it bears all things" – "bears" – to cover, protect; or hold up, endure. Love seeks to protect from harm, to shield from hurt.
- "believes all things" – love seeks to trust and clings to trust, both in people and God.
- "hopes all things" – love hopes in God and its hope keeps it going.
- "endures all things" – "endures" - to bear or remain under without caving.

1. _____ of love (v.1-3)

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

"tongues" - 21x in ch. 12-14.

"but do not have love" – love is missing and absent.

"I have become a noisy gong or a clanging symbol"

Point: loveless _____, no matter how spiritual or sensational, accomplish nothing and show nothing of God.

1 Corinthians 13:2 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 do not have love, I am nothing.

"if I have the gift of prophecy" - the spiritual gift of forthtelling/foretelling revelation.

"if I have all faith" – "all" refers to complete or full

"I am nothing" – devoid, missing something.

Point: spiritual _____ mean nothing, and the person amounts to nothing if love is absent.

1 Corinthians 13:3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

"give" – to give to feed

"but do not love it profits me nothing" – gain, benefit; bring no reward or good outcome.

Point: any gift or sacrifice without love, no matter how great, gains nothing because God is absent from it.