



Love

A More Excellent Way



Lecture 02

Love:

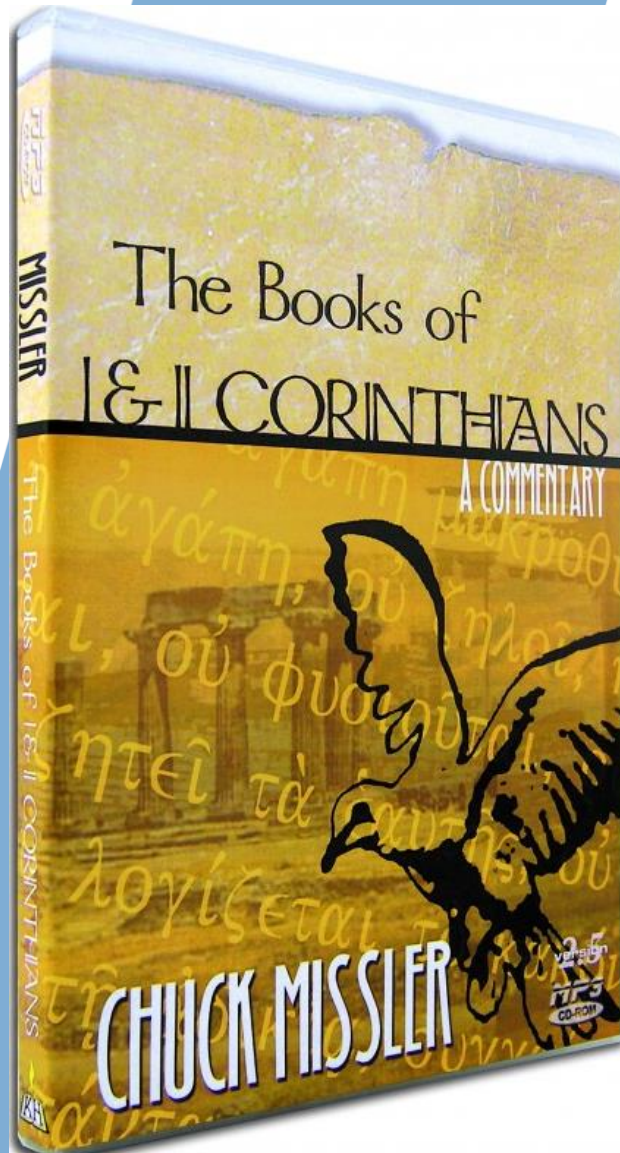
A More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 13

Philip Giorgio

Know the Truth: Lecture Series

Textbook



David Guzik

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Visit the [Enduring Word](#) website for books, software, and tapes by Pastor Guzik.

Calvary Chapel Bible College Germany Website

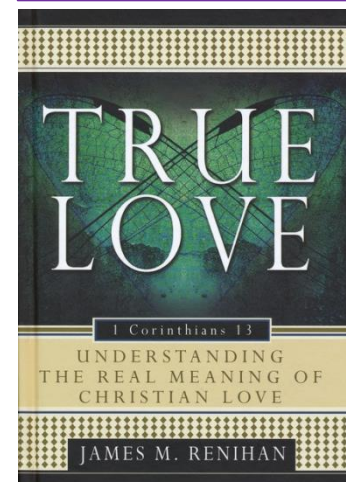
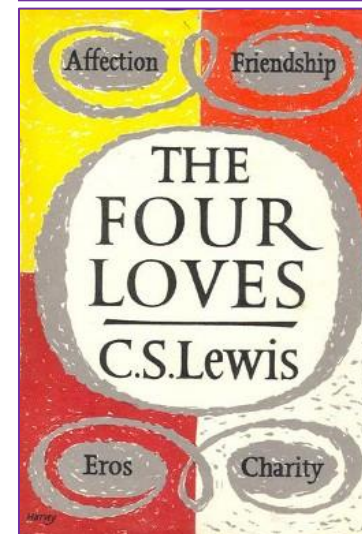
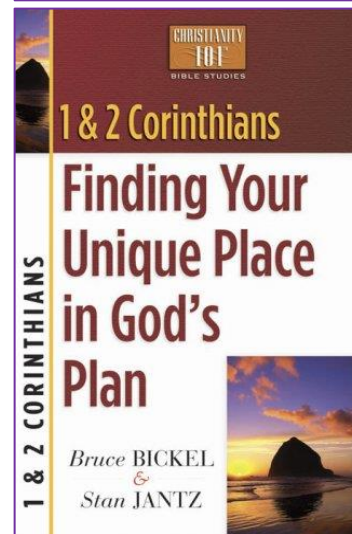
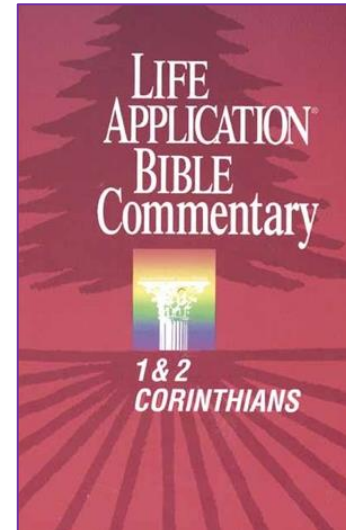
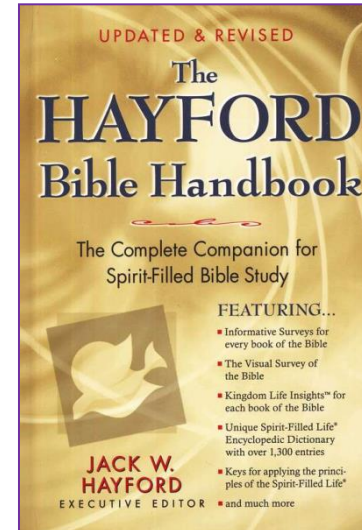
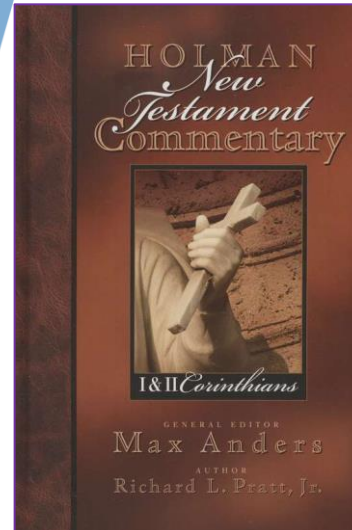
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Enduring Word Website

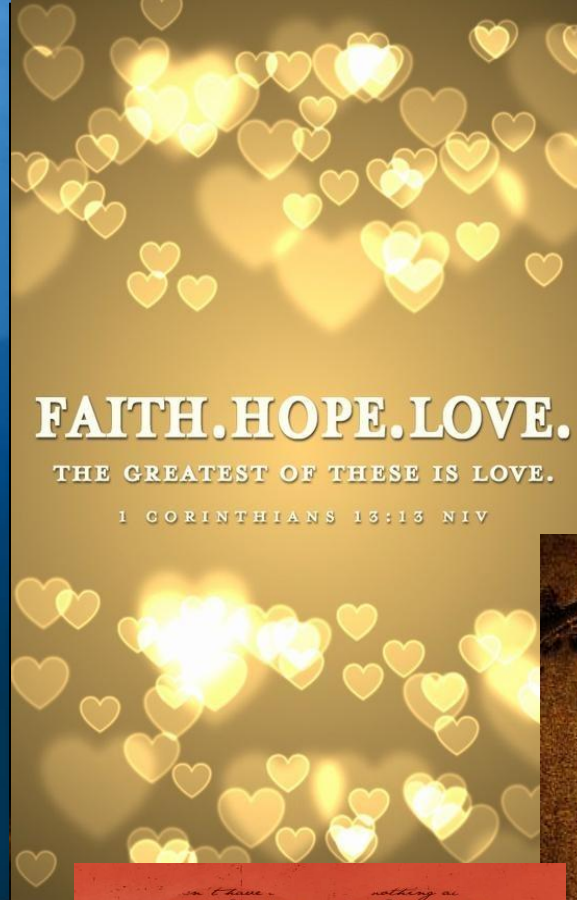
<http://www.enduringword.com/>



References



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



FAITH.HOPE.LOVE.
THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.
1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NIV

TYPES of LOVE 

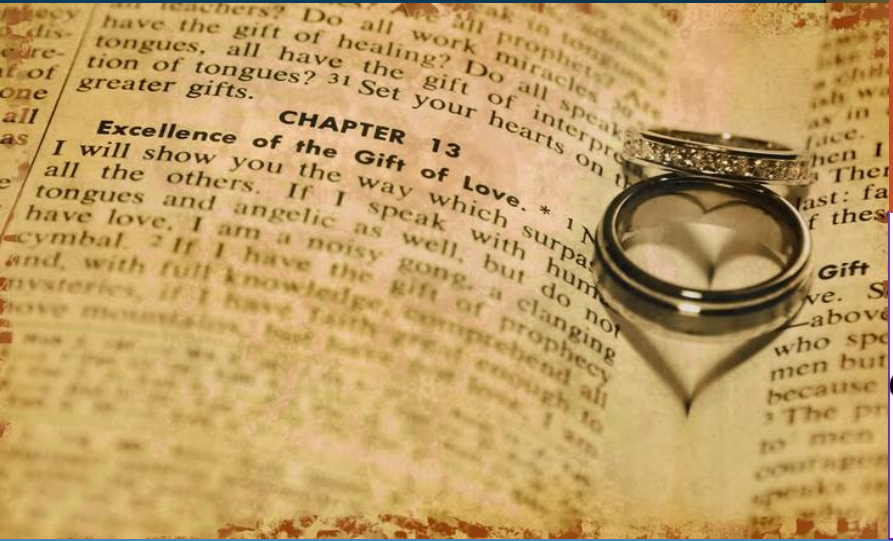
Storge
AFFECTION ~ Love between family members ~

Philia
FRIENDSHIP ~ Love between friends ~

Eros
ROMANCE ~ Love between a married couple ~

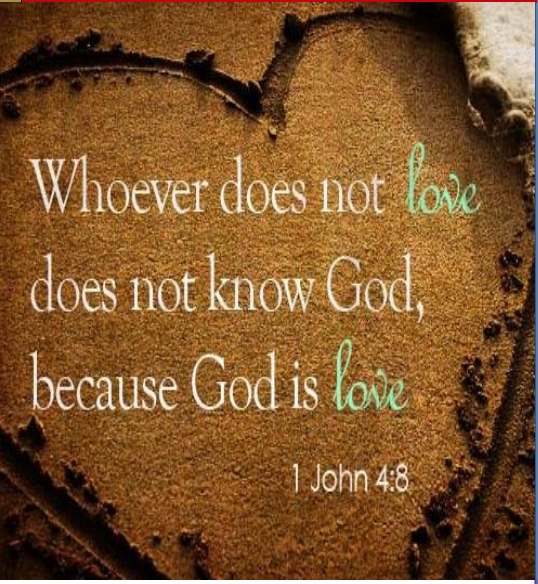
Agape
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ~ The Love of God ~

The Love of God will change your life...
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LOVE DEFINED

Love is patient, love is kind, love is not jealous, love is not proud, love is not arrogant, love is not angry, love does not keep a record of wrongs, love does not rejoice at the failure of the wicked, love rejoices when the righteous prosper, love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.



Whoever does not **love** does not know God, because God is **love**

1 John 4:8

And now these three remain:
Faith, Hope & Love.
But the Greatest of these is **Love.**
-Corinthians 13:13

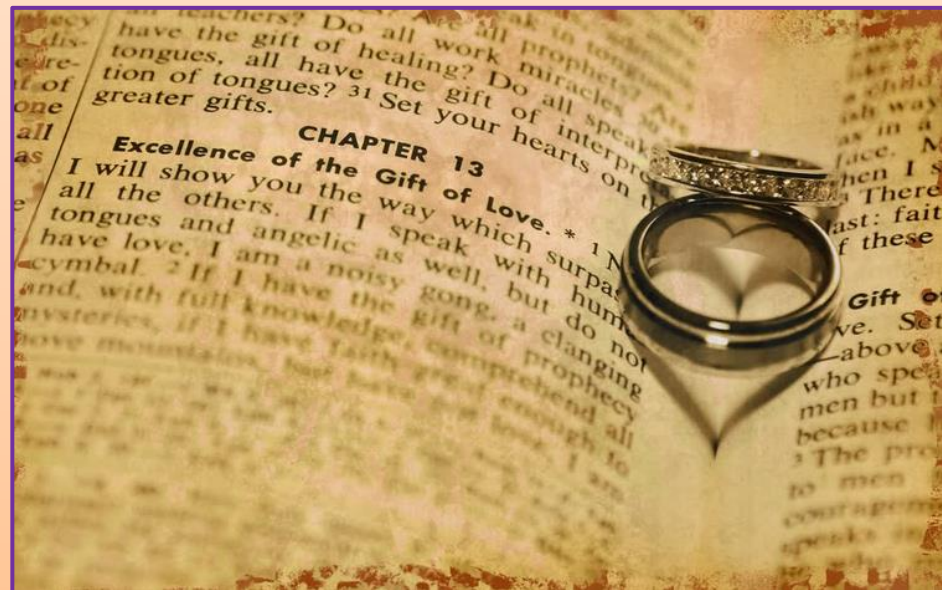


Lecture Series Outline

Series Outline - Lectures

■ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

- **Lecture 01: Introduction ...** [1 CORINTHIANS 12-14]
- **Lecture 02: Love: A More Excellent Way ...** [1 CORINTHIANS 13]





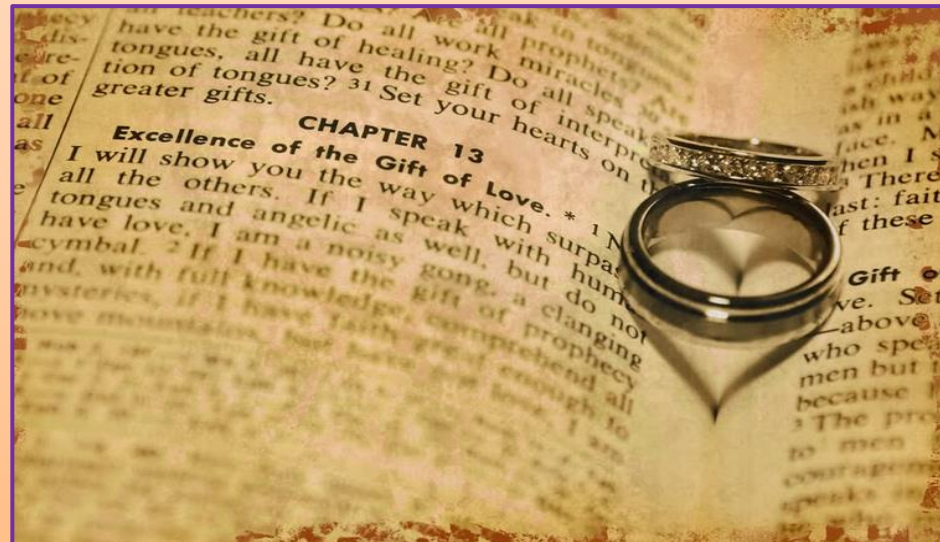
Lecture Outline

Lecture 02 - Outline

▪ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

• Lecture 02: Love: A More Excellent Way

- ➔ » Lecture Preview *Introduction*
- » Importance of Love *Corinthians 13:1-3*
- » Definition of Love *Corinthians 13:4-7*
- » Unfailing Love *Corinthians 13:8-10*
- » Faith, Hope and Love *Corinthians 13:11-13*



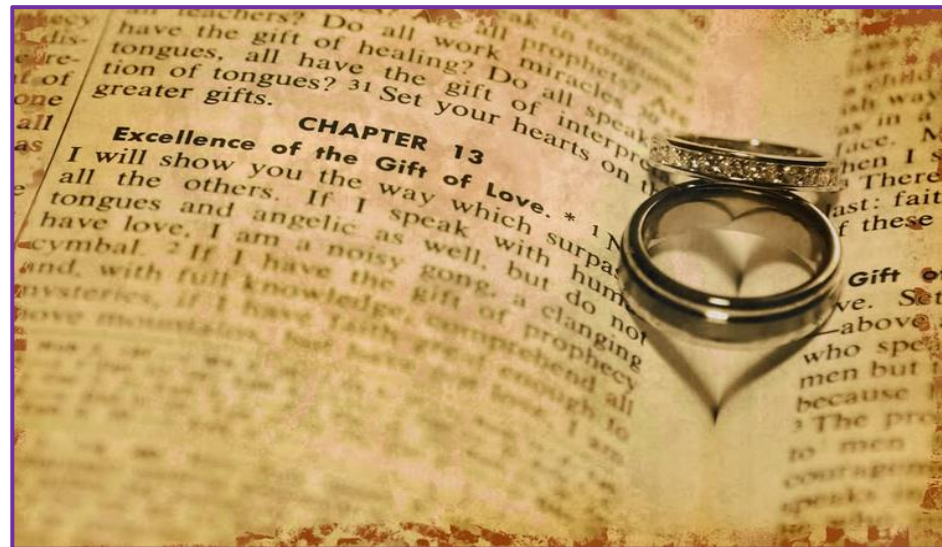
Lecture Preview - INTRODUCTION

- Preview ... *Introduction to 1 Corinthians 13*

The **Corinthians** “*came behind in no gift*” (1:7).

Twelve chapters of **pain** bring **us** to this **pinnacle**. **Paul’s** remedy: **First correction**, chapters 1-11; **then instruction**, 12-14.

It is **interesting** that it was **Paul** the **theologian**, not **John** the **disciple of love**, **who brought us** this **passage**.



Lecture 02 - Outline

▪ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

• Lecture 02: Love: A More Excellent Way

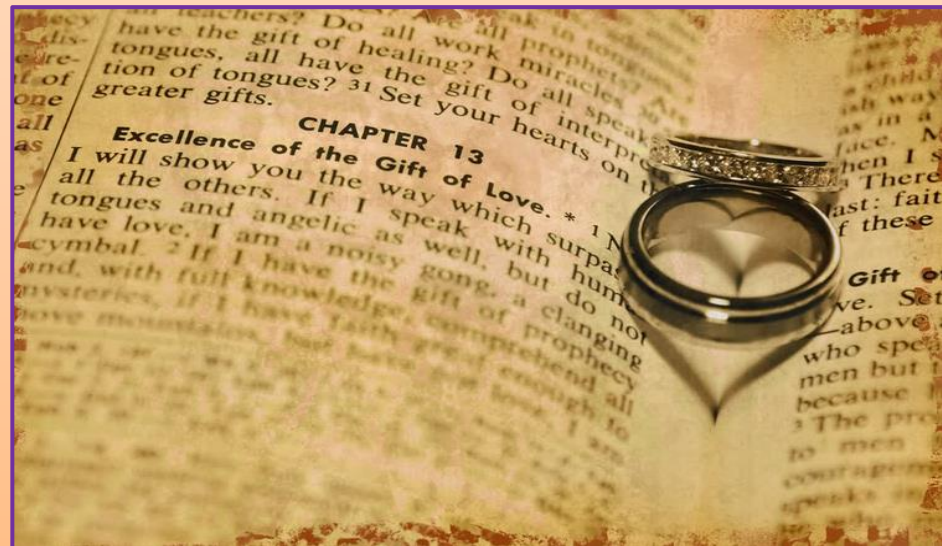
» Lecture Preview *Introduction*

➔ » Importance of Love *Corinthians 13:1-3*

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» Faith, Hope and Love *Corinthians 13:11-13*



Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Importance of Love** - The Supremacy of Love
 - Paul emphasizes the importance of **Love** with a series of **THOUGH I ... BUT HAVE NOT LOVE ...** conditional phrases ...

VERSE	THOUGH I ...		RESULT
1	Speak with the tongues of men and angels	BUT HAVE NOT LOVE (AGAPE)	I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal
2	Have the gift of prophecy AND Understand all mysteries AND All knowledge AND		I am nothing
	Have all faith, so I could remove mountains		
	Bestow all my good to feed the poor		It profits me nothing
3	Give my body to be burned		

13 **THOUGH I** speak with the tongues of **men** and of **angels**, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, **I** have become sounding brass or a clanging 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, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, **I** am nothing. ³ And **THOUGH I** bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and **THOUGH I** give my body to be burned, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, it profits **me** nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:1 - OBSERVATIONS

• Importance of Love - Better Than Tongues

THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS

BUT HAVE NOT LOVE

I HAVE BECOME SOUNDING BRASS OR A CLANGING CYMBAL

- The **Corinthians** were **enamored** with **spiritual gifts**, particularly the **gift of tongues**.
- **Paul** reminds **them** even the **gift of tongues** is **meaningless without love**.
- **Without love**, a **person** may **speak** with the **gift of tongues**, but it is as **meaningless** as **sounding brass** or a **clanging cymbal**.
- It is **nothing** but **empty noise**.

Chuck Missler

Brass and cymbals were familiar at Corinth from their use by devotees of Dionysus (Bacchus) or Cybele (mother goddess).

Pliny the Elder: "Corinthian bronze is valued before silver and almost even before gold".

13 **THOUGH I** speak with the **tongues** of **men** and of **angels**, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, I have become **sounding brass** or a **clanging 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, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:1 - OBSERVATIONS

• Importance of Love - Better Than Tongues

THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS

BUT HAVE NOT LOVE

I HAVE BECOME SOUNDING BRASS OR A CLANGING CYMBAL

- The Greek word **translated tongues** has the **simple idea** of "*languages*" in some places (Acts 2:11, Revelation 5:9).
- This has led **some** to say the **gift of tongues** is simply the **ability to communicate** the **gospel** in **other languages**; it is the **capability** of **learning languages** quickly.
- But the way **tongues** is used here shows it can, and usually does, refer to a **supernatural language** by which a **believer communicates** to **God**.
- There is no other way the **reference** to **tongues** of ... **angels** can be **understood**.

13 **THOUGH I** speak with the **tongues** of **men** and of **angels**, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, I have become **sounding brass** or a **clanging 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, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:1 - OBSERVATIONS

• Importance of Love - Better Than Tongues

THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS

BUT HAVE NOT LOVE

I HAVE BECOME SOUNDING BRASS OR A CLANGING CYMBAL

- In **Paul's** day, many **Jews** believe **angels** had their **own language**, and by the **Spirit**, **one** could **speak** it.
- The **reference** to **tongues** of ... **angels** shows that though the **genuine gift** of **tongues** is a **legitimate language**, it may not be a *"living"* **human language**, or may not be a **human language** at all.
- Apparently, there are **angelic languages** **men** can **speak** by the **inspiration** of the **Holy Spirit**.
- **Paul** is using the Greek word **agape** for love.

- **We** can read this **chapter** and **think** that **Paul** is saying that if **we** are **unfriendly**, then **our lives mean nothing**.
- But **agape** isn't really **friendliness**; it is **self-denial** for the **sake** of **another**.

13 **THOUGH I** **speak** with the **tongues** of **men** and of **angels**, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, **I** have **become sounding brass** or a **clanging 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, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:2 - OBSERVATIONS

• Importance of Love - Better Than Prophecy

THOUGH I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, AND
UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES AND ALL KNOWLEDGE, AND
THOUGH I HAVE ALL FAITH, SO I CAN REMOVE MOUNTAINS
BUT HAVE NOT LOVE
I HAVE NOTHING

- Compound THOUGH I conditional statement
- Prophecy, knowledge, and faith to do miracles are likewise irrelevant apart from love.
- The Corinthian Christians were missing the motive and the goal of the gifts, making them their own end; Paul draws the attention back to love.
- Paul quotes Jesus in reference to faith which could remove mountains (Matthew 17:20).
 - What an amazing thing it would be to have faith which could work the impossible!
 - Yet, even that faith makes us nothing if it is without love.

13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging 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, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:3 - OBSERVATIONS

• Importance of Love - Better than Self Renunciation

THOUGH I BESTOW ALL MY GOOD TO FEED THE POOR,
AND

THOUGH I GIVE MY BODY TO BE BURNED
BUT HAVE NOT LOVE
IT PROFITS ME NOTHING

- Compound **THOUGH I** conditional statement
- **BESTOW ALL MY GOODS TO FEED THE POOR** is what **Jesus** told the **rich young ruler** to **do** and **he** refused (Matthew 16:19-23).
- But **even** if the **rich young ruler** had **done** what **Jesus** said, yet had not **love**, it would have been of **no profit**.

13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging 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, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And **THOUGH I** bestow all **my goods** to feed *the poor*, and **THOUGH I** give **my body** to be burned, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, it profits **me** nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:3 - OBSERVATIONS

• Importance of Love - Better than Self Renunciation

THOUGH I BESTOW ALL MY GOOD TO FEED THE POOR,
AND

THOUGH I GIVE MY BODY TO BE BURNED
BUT HAVE NOT LOVE
IT PROFITS ME NOTHING

- **THOUGH I** GIVE **MY** BODY TO BE BURNED
 - Even if **I** lay **my** life down in dramatic martyrdom, apart from **love**, it is of **no** profit.
- Normally, no **one** would **doubt** the **spiritual credentials** of **someone who gave away everything they** had, and gave up **their** life in **dramatic martyrdom**.

- But **those** are **not the best measures** of **someone's** true spiritual credentials.
- **Love** is the **best measure**.

13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging 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, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And **THOUGH I** bestow all **my** goods to feed *the poor*, and **THOUGH I** give **my** body to be burned, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, it profits **me** nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:3 - OBSERVATIONS

• Importance of Love - Better than Self Renunciation

THOUGH I BESTOW ALL MY GOOD TO FEED THE POOR,
AND

THOUGH I GIVE MY BODY TO BE BURNED
BUT HAVE NOT LOVE
IT PROFITS ME NOTHING

- **Some** believe the **burning** referred to here is not **execution**, but **branding** as a **criminal** or as a **slave** for the **sake** of the **gospel**.
- The more likely sense is **execution**, but it really matters little, because the **essential meaning** is the **same**. **Paul** is **writing** about **great personal sacrifice**.
- Many **Christians** believe the **Christian life** is all about **sacrifice**.

- **Sacrificing your money, your life**, for the **cause** of Jesus Christ.
- **Sacrifice** is **important**, but **without love** it is **useless**. It profits **me** nothing.

13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging 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, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And **THOUGH I** bestow all **my** goods to feed *the poor*, and **THOUGH I** give **my** body to be burned, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, it profits **me** nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Importance of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Importance of Love** - The Supremacy of Love
 - Each **thing described** in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 is a **GOOD THING**.

- **Tongues** are **GOOD**.
 - **Prophecy** and **knowledge** and **faith** are **GOOD**.
 - **Sacrifice** is **GOOD**.
 - But **LOVE** is so **valuable**, so **important**, that **apart from it, every other GOOD THING** is **useless**.
 - Sometimes, we make the **great mistake** of letting go of what is **best** for something else that is **good**, but **not the best**.

13 **THOUGH I** speak with the tongues of **men** and of **angels**, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, **I** have become sounding brass or a clanging 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, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, **I** am nothing. ³ And **THOUGH I** bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and **THOUGH I** give my body to be burned, **BUT HAVE NOT LOVE**, it profits **me** nothing.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ... NKJV

Lecture 02 - Outline

▪ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

• Lecture 02: Love: A More Excellent Way

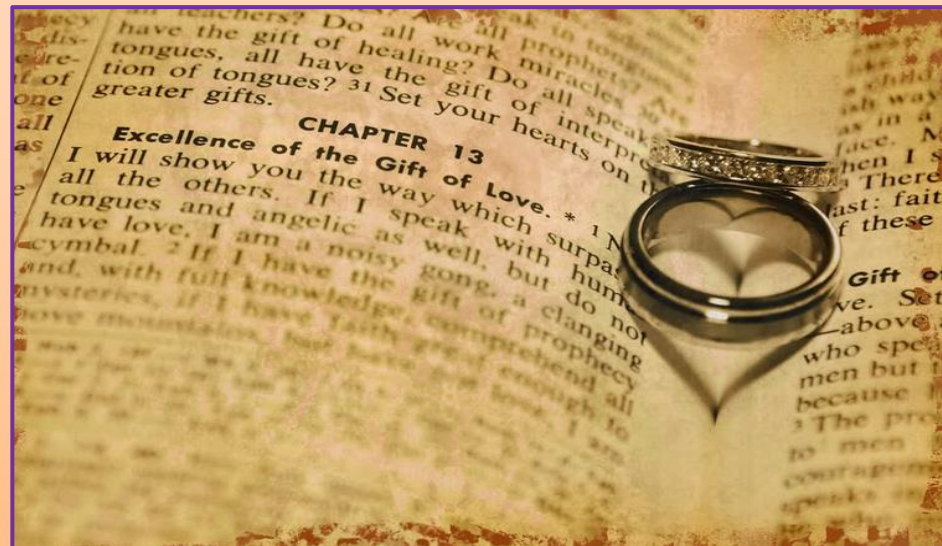
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Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

- Paul gives 15 attributes of LOVE
 - Seven Stated Positively - WHAT LOVE IS
 - Eight Stated Negatively - WHAT LOVE IS NOT

POSITIVE	
VERSE	ATTRIBUTE
4	Suffers Long
4	Is Kind
6	Rejoices in Truth
7	Bears All Things
7	Believes All Things
7	Hopes All Things
7	Endures All Things

NEGATIVE	
VERSE	ATTRIBUTE
4	Is Not Envious
4	Is Not Proud
4	Is Not Arrogant
5	Is Not Rude
5	Is Not Selfish
5	Is Not Provoked
5	Thinks No Evil
6	Does Not Rejoice In Iniquity

⁴ Love suffers long *and is kind*; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:4 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Definition of Love** - The Description of Love
 - Notice **Paul** describes **LOVE** using **action words**.
 - **He** is not **writing** about how **LOVE feels**, **he** is **writing** about how it can be **seen in action**.
 - **True LOVE** is **always demonstrated** by **action**.

¹⁶ For **God** so **loved** the **world** that **He** **gave** **His** only **begotten Son**, that **whoever** **believes** in **Him** should not **perish** but have **everlasting life**. --- John 3: 16 ... NKJV

- **LOVE SUFFERS LONG**
 - **LOVE** will **endure** a **long time**. It is the **heart shown** in **God** (2 Peter 3:9).

⁹ The **Lord** is not **slack** concerning **His** **promise**, as **some** count **slackness**, but is **longsuffering** toward **us**, not **willing** that **any** should **perish** but that **all** should **come** to **repentance**. --- 2 Peter 3:9 ... NKJV

- If **God's LOVE** is in **us**, **we** will **be longsuffering** to **those** who **annoy us** and **hurt us**.

⁴ Love **suffers long** *and is kind*; love **does not envy**; love **does not parade** itself, is not **puffed up**; ⁵ **does not behave rudely**, **does not seek its own**, is not **provoked**, **thinks no evil**; ⁶ **does not rejoice in iniquity**, but **rejoices in the truth**; ⁷ **bears all things**, **believes all things**, **hopes all things**, **endures all things**.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:4 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• LOVE IS KIND

- When **we** have and show **God's LOVE**, it will be seen in **simple acts of kindness**.
- This **attribute**, as well as all the **attributes** of **LOVE**, are an **apt description** of **Jesus Christ**.
- Read thorough all of this chapter and **replace** the word **"LOVE"** with **"Jesus"** and **understand** the **perfect description** of **love** is **found** in **Jesus Christ**.
- Now read through all of this chapter and **replace** the word **"LOVE"** with **your name** and see how **far you fall short** of the **absolute perfect standard** of **LOVE**.
- **God** is **LOVE** - **Jesus** is **God** - therefore **Jesus** is **LOVE**!

4 Love suffers long *and is kind*; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:4 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• LOVE DOES NOT ENVY

- Envy is one of the least productive and most damaging of all sins.
- It accomplishes nothing, except to hurt.
- LOVE keeps its distance from envy, and does not resent it when someone else is promoted or blessed.

• Envy is no small sin

- Envy murdered Abel ... Genesis 4:3-8.
- Envy enslaved Joseph ... Genesis 37:11, 28.
- Envy put Jesus on the cross ... Matthew 27:18.

18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

--- Matthew 27:18 ... NKJV

4 Love suffers long *and is kind*; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:4 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• LOVE DOES NOT PARADE ITSELF

- LOVE in **action** can **work anonymously**.
- LOVE does not have to have the **limelight** to do a **good job**, or to be **satisfied** with the **result**.
- LOVE **gives** because it **loves to give**, NOT out of the **sense of praise** it can have from **showing itself off**.

• [LOVE]... IS NOT PUFFED UP

- **Puffed up** means to be **arrogant** and **self-focused**. It speaks of someone who has a "*big head*."
- LOVE doesn't get it's **head swelled**, it **focuses on** the **needs of others**.
- **Both** to "PARADE ITSELF" and to be "PUFFED UP" are simply **rooted** in **PRIDE**. Among **believers**, the **worst PRIDE** is **spiritual PRIDE**.

Pride of *FACE* is obnoxious,
pride of *RACE* is vulgar,
but the worst pride is the pride of *GRACE*!

⁴ Love suffers long *and is kind*; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:5 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• [LOVE]... DOES NOT BEHAVE RUDELY

- Where there is **LOVE**, there will **always** be **kindness** and **good manners**.
- There is **no excuse** for being **rude**.
- If you are **rude**, then you are **not showing LOVE**.

• [LOVE]... DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN

- **Paul** communicates the **same idea** in Romans 12:10:
 - In **honor giving preference** to **one another**.
- Also, Philippians 2:4 carries the same thought:
 - Let each of **you look out** not only for **his own interests**, but also for the **interests** of **others**.
- This is **being like Jesus**,
 - Be an OTHERS-CENTERED **person** instead of a SELF-CENTERED **person**.

¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

--- Romans 12:10 ... NKJV

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

--- Philippians 2:4 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:5 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• [LOVE]... IS NOT PROVOKED

- We all find it **easy** to be **provoked**, to **become irritated** with **those who** are **just plain annoying**.
- But it is a **sin** to be **provoked**, and it **isn't loving**.
- **Moses** was **kept from the Promised Land** because **he** became **provoked** at the **people** of **Israel**.

Numbers 20:2-11.

• [LOVE]... THINKS NO EVIL

- **Literally**, this means *"**LOVE** does not store up the memory of any wrong it has received."*
- **LOVE** will **put away** the **hurts** of the **past** instead of **clinging to them**.
- **LOVE** never supposes that a **good action** may have a **bad motive**.
 - The original **implies** that **LOVE** does not invent or devise any evil.

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:6 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• [LOVE]... DOES NOT REJOICE IN INIQUITY

- LOVE is willing to want the best for others, and refuses to color things against others.
- Instead, LOVE rejoices in the truth. *(next phrase)*

• [LOVE]... REJOICES IN THE TRUTH

- LOVE can always stand with and on truth,
- Because LOVE is pure and good like truth.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and TRUTH. --- John 1:14 ... NKJV

³² And you shall know THE TRUTH, and THE TRUTH shall make you free." --- John 8:32 ... NKJV

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, THE TRUTH, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

--- John 14:6 ... NKJV

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:7 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Definition of Love** - The Description of Love

- ALL THINGS

- ALL THINGS encompasses everything!
 - We can all BEAR some things,
 - We can all BELIEVE some things,
 - We can all HOPE some things,
 - We can all ENDURE some things.
 - But God calls us father and deeper into LOVE for Him, for one another, and for a perishing world.

⁴ Love suffers long *and is kind*; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:7 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• [LOVE]... BEARS ALL THINGS

- The word for **bears** can also be translated **covers**.

⁸ And **above** all things have fervent love for **one another**, for "love will **cover** a multitude of **sins**."

--- 1 Peter 4:8 ... NKJV

- **We** are **instructed** to **bear** one another's burdens

15 **We** then **who** are **strong** ought to **BEAR WITH** the **scruples** of the **weak**, and **not** to **please** **ourselves**.

--- Romans 15:1 ... NKJV

- **We** are **instructed** to **walk** in unity

4 **I**, therefore, the **prisoner** of the **Lord**, **beseech** **you** to **walk** **worthy** of the **calling** with which **you** were called, ² with **all** **lowliness** and **gentleness**, with **longsuffering**, **BEARING WITH** **one** **another** in love, ³ **endeavoring** to **keep** the **unity** of the **Spirit** in the **bond** of **peace**. --- Ephesians 4:1-3 ... NKJV

⁴ Love suffers long *and is kind*; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:7 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• [LOVE]... BELIEVES ALL THINGS

- We never believe a lie, but we never believe evil unless the facts demand it.
- We choose to believe the best of others.

"Love, as far as she can, believes in her fellows. I know some persons who habitually believe everything that is bad, but they are not the children of love.... I wish the chatterers would take a turn at exaggerating other people's virtues, and go from house to house trumping up pretty stories of their acquaintances."

... Charles Spurgeon

⁴ Love suffers long *and is kind*; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but *rejoices in the truth*; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:7 - OBSERVATIONS

• Definition of Love - The Description of Love

• [LOVE]... HOPES ALL THINGS

- LOVE has a **confidence** in the **future**, not a **pessimism**.
- When **hurt**, LOVE does not say, *"It will be this way for ever, and even get worse."*
- LOVE **hopes** for the **best**, and LOVE **hopes** in **God**.

• [LOVE]... ENDURES ALL THINGS

- Most of **us** can BEAR ALL THINGS, and BELIEVE ALL THINGS, and HOPE ALL THINGS, **but only for a while!**
- The **greatness** of **AGAPE LOVE** is it **keeps** on BEARING, BELIEVING, and HOPING.
- LOVE does not **give up**.
- LOVE **destroys enemies** by **turning them** into **friends**.

⁴ Love suffers long *and is kind*; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ... NKJV

Lecture 02 - Outline

▪ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

• Lecture 02: Love: A More Excellent Way

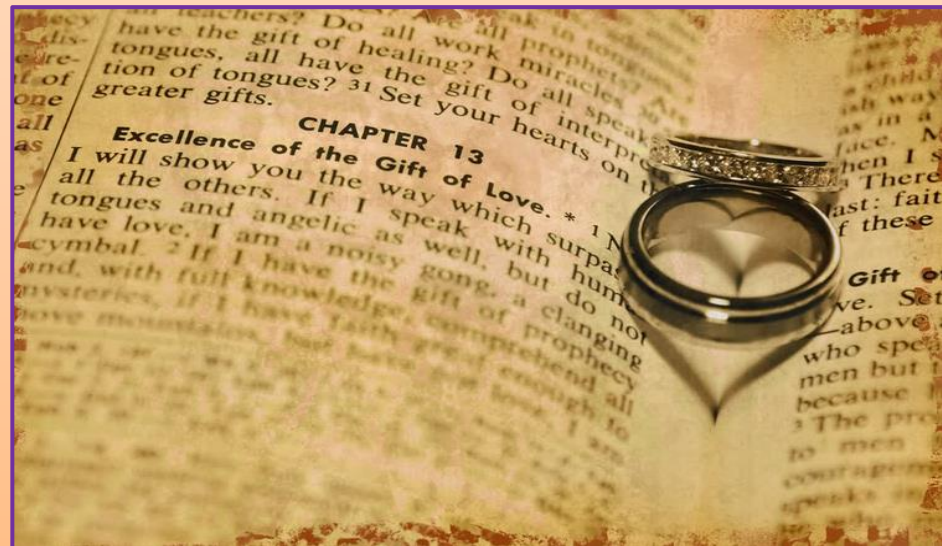
» Lecture Preview *Introduction*

» Importance of Love *Corinthians 13:1-3*

» Definition of Love *Corinthians 13:4-7*

➔ » Unfailing Love *Corinthians 13:8-10*

» Faith, Hope and Love *Corinthians 13:11-13*



Unfailing Love - 1 Corinthians 13:8-9 - OBSERVATIONS

• Unfailing Love - The Permanence of Love

• LOVE NEVER FAILS

- Paul is addressing the over-emphasis the Corinthian believers had on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul shows they should emphasize LOVE more than the gifts, because the gifts are temporary "containers" of God's work; LOVE is the work itself.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are appropriate for the present time, but they are not permanent.
- They are imperfect gifts for an imperfect time.

⁸ Love never fails. But whether *there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.* ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 ... NKJV

Unfailing Love - 1 Corinthians 13:10 - OBSERVATIONS

• Unfailing Love - The Permanence of Love

• THAT WHICH IS PERFECT

- Paul says WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT HAS COME, THEN the gifts will be "*discontinued*."
- What is THAT WHICH IS PERFECT?
 - Some who believe the miraculous gifts ceased with the apostles say it refers to the completion of the New Testament; they are wrong.
 - Virtually all commentators are agreed THAT WHICH IS PERFECT is when we are in the eternal presence of the Perfect One, when we are with the Lord forever either through the return of Christ or graduation to the eternal.

⁸ Love never fails. But whether *there are prophecies, they will fail*; whether *there are tongues, they will cease*; whether *there is knowledge, it will vanish away*. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 ... NKJV

The Greek word for PERFECT is **telos**.

Considering the way the New Testament uses **telos** in other passages, it certainly seems to be speaking about the coming of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:8; 15:24; James 5:11;
Revelation 20:5, 7; 21:6; 22:13

Unfailing Love - 1 Corinthians 13:10 - OBSERVATIONS

• Unfailing Love - The Permanence of Love

• THAT WHICH IS PERFECT

- Many who believe the miraculous gifts ended with the apostles (e.g., John MacArthur) claim since the verb WILL CEASE is not in the passive, but in the middle voice, it could be translated, *tongues will stop by themselves*.
- Their analysis sounds scholarly, but is disregarded by virtually all Greek scholars.
 - Even if this translation is correct, it does nothing to suggest when tongues will cease.
 - John MacArthur claims, "*tongues ceased in the apostolic age and that when they stopped, they stopped for good.*"
 - But this passage doesn't tell us "*tongues will stop by themselves*," and it tells us TONGUES WILL CEASE only when THAT WHICH IS PERFECT HAS COME.

⁸ Love never fails. But whether *there are prophecies*, they will fail; whether *there are tongues*, they will cease; whether *there is knowledge*, it will vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 ... NKJV

"But when will that perfection come? It begins, indeed, at death, because then we put off many weaknesses along with the body." ... John Calvin

Unfailing Love - 1 Corinthians 13:10 - OBSERVATIONS

• Unfailing Love - The Permanence of Love

• THAT WHICH IS PERFECT

- In **his** use of WILL FAIL and WILL CEASE and WILL VANISH AWAY, **Paul**, under the **inspiration** of the **Holy Spirit**, is **not** trying to **say** that **prophecies**, **tongues**, and **knowledge** have **different fates**.
- **Paul** is simply writing the same thing in three different ways; They will end, but LOVE NEVER FAILS.

• WE PROPHECY IN PART

- **Prophecy** and **preaching** are **not** the **same thing**.
- **Preaching** is essentially a **merging** of the **gifts** of **teaching** and **exhortation**,
- **Prophecy** has the **primary elements** of **prediction** and **revelation**.

⁸ **Love never fails**. But whether *there are prophecies*, they will **fail**; whether *there are tongues*, they will **cease**; whether *there is knowledge*, it will **vanish away**. ⁹ For **we know in part** and **we prophesy in part**. ¹⁰ But **when that which is perfect has come**, then **that which is in part will be done away**.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 ... NKJV

Lecture 02 - Outline

▪ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

• Lecture 02: Love: A More Excellent Way

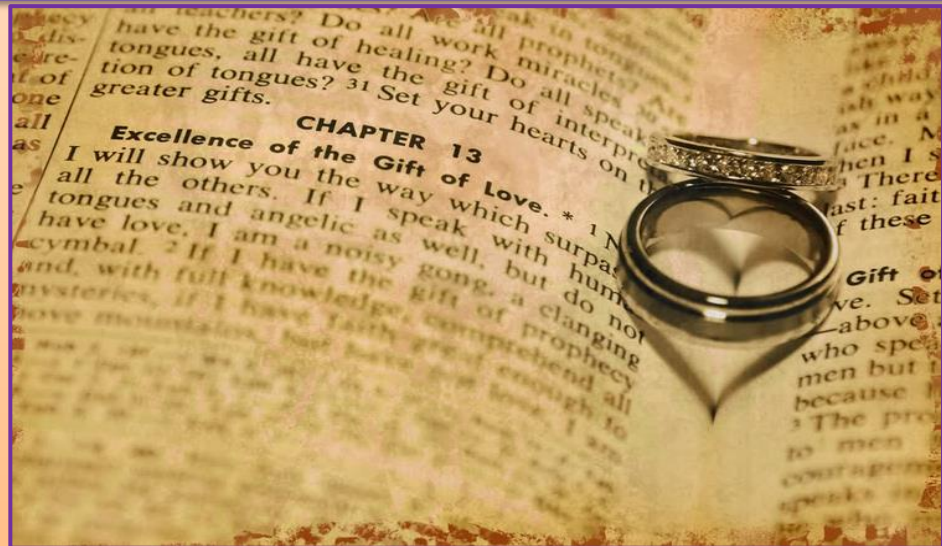
» Lecture Preview *Introduction*

» Importance of Love *Corinthians 13:1-3*

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➔ » Faith, Hope and Love *Corinthians 13:11-13*



Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

• WHEN I WAS A CHILD

- Childish things are appropriate for children, and the gifts are appropriate for our present time.
- But the gifts of the Holy Spirit will not be appropriate forever.
- Paul is not trying to say that if we are spiritually mature, we will not need spiritual gifts.
- But he is saying that if we are spiritually mature, we will not over emphasize spiritual gifts, especially at the expense of love.

11 When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. **13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

- FOR NOW WE SEE IN A MIRROR, DIMLY, BUT THEN FACE TO FACE

- When we can fully see Jesus (*not as in a poorly reflected image*) the need for the gifts will have vanished, and so the gifts will pass away.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be overshadowed by the immediate presence of Jesus.
- When the sun rises, we turn off the lesser lights.

• FACE TO FACE

- Paul uses the term "FACE TO FACE" to describe complete, unhindered fellowship with God.
- 1 John 3:2 tells us when we get to heaven, we shall see Him as He is. There will be no more barriers to our relationship with God.

11 When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

• FACE TO FACE

- In Exodus 33:11, it says the LORD spoke to Moses FACE TO FACE, as a man speaks to his friend.
- In Exodus 33, FACE TO FACE is a figurative expression, meaning free and open fellowship.
- Moses had not - and could not - see the actual face of God the Father in His glory.
- This is the sense in which John says *No one has seen God at any time ...* 1 John 4:12.
- In the spiritual sense which Moses had a FACE TO FACE relationship with God, we can have a free and open relationship with God.
- But in the ultimate sense, it will wait until then, when we are united with Jesus in glory.

11 When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ **THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE**, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. --- Revelation 22:3-5 ... NKJV [NEW JERUSALEM]

Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

• FOR NOW WE SEE IN A MIRROR

- This speaks again to the perfect fellowship with God we will have one day.
- Today, when we look in a good mirror, the image is clear. But in the ancient world, mirrors were made out of polished metal, and the image was always unclear and somewhat distorted.
- We see Jesus now only in a dim, unclear way, but one day we will see Him with perfect clarity.
- We will know just as I also am known.

The city of Corinth was famous for producing some of the best bronze mirrors in antiquity. But at their best, they couldn't give a really clear vision. When we get to heaven, we will have a really clear vision of the Lord.

11 When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. **13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

• I SHALL KNOW JUST AS I ALSO AM KNOWN

- God knows everything about me; This is how I ALSO AM KNOWN.
- But in heaven, I will know God as perfectly as I can; I SHALL KNOW JUST AS I ALSO AM KNOWN.
- It doesn't mean I will be all-knowing as God is, but it means I will know Him as perfectly as I can.
- Heaven is precious to us for many reasons.
 - We long to be with loved ones who have passed before us and whom we miss so dearly.
 - We long to be with the great men and women of God who have passed before us in centuries past.
 - We want to walk the streets of gold, see the pearly gates, see the angels round the throne of God worshipping Him day and night.
 - However, none of those things, can compare to the unhindered, unrestricted, presence of our Lord, and TO KNOW JUST AS I ALSO AM KNOWN will be the greatest experience of our eternal existence.

11 When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

• I SHALL KNOW JUST AS I ALSO AM KNOWN

- The **gifts** of the **Holy Spirit** are **necessary** and **appropriate** for **this present age**, **when we** are **not yet fully mature**, and **we** ONLY KNOW IN PART.
- There **will come a day** when the gifts are unnecessary, but **that day has not come yet**.
- The **time of fulfillment** **Paul** refers to with THEN FACE TO FACE and THEN I SHALL KNOW JUST AS I ALSO AM KNOWN **speaks** of **being** in the **glory** of **heaven with Jesus**. Certainly, that is the THAT WHICH IS PERFECT spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13:10.
- **According** to the **context**, it **can't be anything else**.

11 When **I** was a **child**, **I** spoke 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 in a **mirror**, **dimly**, but **then** face to face. **Now I** know in part, but **then I** shall know just as **I** also am known.

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

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

• AND NOW ABIDE FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, THESE THREE

- The **three great pursuits** of the **believer's life** are not "*miracles, power, and gifts.*" They are FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE.
- Though the **gifts** are **precious**, and **given** by the **Holy Spirit today**, they were **never meant** to be the **focus** or **goal** of **our Christian lives**.
- Instead, **we pursue** FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE.
- This is **one** of **Paul's favorite triplet** - FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE. **We see** it in **many** of **his letters**.
1 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; Galatians 5:5-6; Colossians 1:4-5; 2 Timothy 1:12-13
- Even **Peter referenced** the **triplet** ... 1 Peter 1:21-22

What is your Christian life focused on? What do you really want more of? It should all come back to **faith**, **hope**, and **love**. If it doesn't, we need to receive God's sense of priorities, and put our focus where it belongs.

11 When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

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

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

• BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

- Love is greatest because it will continue, even grow, in the eternal state.
- When we are in heaven, faith and hope will have fulfilled their purpose.
- We won't need faith when we see God face to face.
- We won't need to hope in the coming of Jesus once He comes.
- But we will always love the Lord and each other, and grow in that love through eternity.

11 When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. **13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

Faith, Hope and Love - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - OBSERVATIONS

• Faith, Hope and Love - Love Abides Forever

• BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

- LOVE is the **greatest** because it is an **attribute** of God (1 John 4:8), and **faith** and **hope** are **not part** of God's **character** and **personality**.
 - God does not **have faith** in the way **we** have **faith**, because **He never** has to "**trust**" **outside** of **Himself**.
 - God does not **have hope** the way **we** have **hope**, because **He knows all things** and is **in complete control**.
 - But **God is love**, and **will always be love**.
- Fortunately, **we don't need** to **choose** between **faith**, **hope**, and **love**.
 - **Paul** isn't trying to **make us choose**.
 - But **he** wants to **emphasize** the **point** to the **Corinthian believers**: without **LOVE** as the **motive** and **goal**, the **gifts** are **meaningless distractions**.
 - If **you lose LOVE**, **you lose everything**.

11 When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

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

--- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ... NKJV

8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. -- 1 John 4:8 ... NKJV

Love is not an option!

