

Letters to the church in...



Corinth

Focus: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Lesson 13-Love so Divine!!

- **“A more excellent way—a more excellent thing!” (v.1-3) (and 12:31)**
 - This chapter is quite the famous chapter in the Bible! It is read at weddings and given on plaques to lovers. Songs are written about it! It is a chapter that is well worth reading and re-reading, memorizing, and meditating upon!
 - (v.1,2) The Spirit suggests to us that Love, the fruit of the Spirit is greater than the gifts of the Spirit! **Even if we had the gifts of the Spirit to a perfection as with the “tongues of angels,” but have not love, we have nothing!!** We might make a lot of noise, but we would be ineffective.
 - (v.3) Apparently generous actions prompted from selfish motives devoid of love merely useless to us... “it profits us nothing!” **Our actions should be motivated by the Springs of Love, not by selfishness!**
 - **God’s Character “is love;” “God is love” (1 John 4:8). God’s commandments are all about Love. The two greatest commandments are...(Matthew 22:36-40).** The Ten Commandments all hang on these two. The first 4 deal with our relationship to God; the last 6 deal with our relationship to man.(Romans 13:8-10)—“Love works no evil...” “...love is the fulfilling of the law” “...it is briefly comprehended in this...love.” **“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another” (John 13:35).**
 - **SIN IS THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE!!!** (sin is selfish, unkind, and caring for no others). **Sin causes the “love of many to grow cold” (Matthew 24:12).** But, **the Holy Spirit** is leading men to repentance and working to restore the righteous love of God back into our hearts (See Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22). **God’s Love and His Law are always combined** (they are equal expressions of each other). Sin breaks God’s commandments (1 John 3:4). **“For this is the love of God, that we keep His...not burdensome...” (1 John 5:3). “If you love me, keep my commandments...” (John 14:15,21, 6).** Many are lost in the last days because they “did not receive the LOVE of the truth...” (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
- **LOVE is defined for us in this place (v.4-7)**
 - **Love is a pure and holy principle—not just some feeling** (as many often think of it).
 - Jesus teaches us to “love [even] our enemies” by showing kind and caring acts even to those who do not deserve it (Matthew 5:44; Proverbs 25:21,22). We must do the action, whether or not the whole heart is there in it. **A missionary named David Gates** once got placed into a prison in the Jungles. Many of the men in there were sick. Gates just happened to be a registered nurse. He didn’t really feel like doing anything for anybody. He was trapped against his will, for no good cause (held away from his family). But, he

decided to take care of the people in their and made arrangements with the guards to see all the patients. He didn't feel like doing this at first, but after continuing to do it, God brought him the feeling of love and hope (especially after this kind service opened up the way for him to be released!!). **Love is a right action!** (feelings may come after the kindness at times). **Jesus didn't FEEL like being nailed to a cross. But, he did it for the joy set before him, despising the shame. It was love in action!**

- (v.4) **"...love suffers long". So did Jesus** ("How long shall I be with you?... "How often I would have...but you would not..." (Matthew 17:17; 23:37). **"...is kind"** (just as God sends His rain on the just and on the unjust—whether we've deserved His mercies or not!). **"...is not arrogant". Jesus said,** "learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls..."(Matthew 11:29).
- (v.5) **"...not easily provoked..."**God is patient towards us. **"...thinks no evil".** God offers "good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). (v.6) **"...rejoices not in iniquity."** It hates sin and evil, but rejoices in the truth of Jesus.
- (v.7) **"...bears all things...hopes all things...endures..."**. **Jesus said...** "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34). Jesus prayed for his enemies and accusers as they had just nailed him to the cross. He hoped yet for their salvation.
- **Love never ceases or comes to an end** (While the other things in this world do) **(v.8-10)**
 - The prophecies, etc. that deal with the things of this world will have served us their usefulness by the time Jesus comes. But then, **love must continue!**
 - (v.11,12)—**a more perfect revelation of all things is coming!!** (we no longer will need to have a childish or simple understanding, etc.).
- **Conclusion (v.13). Let these things abide...Faith, hope, and Love...but the greatest of which is love—the holy character of God and of Heaven!**
 - How does the love of God affect us so much? **"Greater love has no man than this...that he lay down his life for his friends..."** (John 15:13) **"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son..."** (John 3:16). **"But God demonstrates his own love for us...in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us..."** (Romans 5:8). **"Behold what manner of love..."** (1 John 3:1).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to receive the Love of God into your heart by asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?

_____ Is it your desire to keep all the Ten Commandments out of love for Jesus and your fellow man-kind? _____