

## “THE LOVE FOR OTHERS THAT COMES FROM ABOVE”

### I Corinthians 13:1-13

#### I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Selecting the right “fragrance” to fill any local church: *(Heb. 10:25)*
1. The Bridegroom’s selected fragrance: **(Rom. 5:5)**  
*(Jn. 3:16; 15:9, 13; Rom. 5:8; II Thes. 2:13a, 16; I Jn. 3:16; 4:10)*
  2. The bride’s commanded fragrance:  
*(Mt. 22:37-40; Mk. 12:35-37; Lk. 20:41-44; Jn. 13:34-35; 15:9; I Jn. 5:3)*
- B. Grasping the impact of this “fragrance”:
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- C. Analyzing the mixture of this “fragrance”: *(See back)*
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

#### II. THE REPETITIVE, FACTUAL DECISION TO TRULY LOVE:

- A. The preeminence of fragrant “agape”: **vv. 1-3**
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- B. The individual properties of fragrant “agape”: **vv. 4-7**
1. “Suffereth long” v. 4
  2. “Is kind” v. 4
  3. “Envieth not” v. 4
  4. “Vaunteth not itself” v. 4
  5. “is not puffed up” v. 4
  6. “Doth not behave itself unseemly” v. 5
  7. “Seeketh not its own” v. 5
  8. “Is not easily provoked” v. 5
  9. “Thinketh no evil” v. 5
  10. “Rejoiceth not in inequity, but rejoiceth in truth” v. 6
  11. “Beareth all things” v. 7
  12. “Believeth all things” v. 7
  13. “Hopeth all things” v. 7
  14. “Endureth all things” v. 7
- C. The permanence of fragrant “agape”: **vv. 8-13**
1. Three facts about spiritual gifts: **vv. 8-12**
  2. One fact about love: **v. 13**  
(over)

### III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

A.

B.

C.

1. Romantic (eros) love: It is a deep physical attraction and sexual appetite for someone of either sex. **It is "self-centered" and "self satisfying"**. Webster defines romantic love as "to make foolish, cause to lose sound judgment, to inspire with shallow affection." It is best described as **"infatuation"**. If it is not kept within Biblical boundaries, it will override the individual's values. It can trap an individual into marriage by giving the illusion that this experience and feeling will last forever when in reality it lasts for a relatively short period of time. Romantic love has repeated ends and repeated beginnings causing the individual to **"fall out of love"** as quickly as he **"falls into love"**. Romantic (eros) love tends to be consumed with self-driven, "I" feelings.

2. Friendship (phileo) love: It is a relationship of mutual admiration when both parties "give and take" to accomplish a common goal. It is more "others" centered than eros love, but it still rises and falls on whether one individual **"takes too much" or "gives too little"**. When expectations are not fulfilled, the relationship drifts apart. Phileo love lasts longer than eros love, but given time, it usually comes to a premature end. When this love grows cold, the tendency is not to be involved in another one again.

3. Christ-like (agape) love: **It is a love that can only come from God that is others centered and others satisfying. It is not as much emotional as it is factual. It has less to do with what you say, and more to do with what you do. It is an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person. It seeks the highest good for the other expecting nothing in return. It is not a feeling but a determined act of the will, (Mt. 22:37-40; Mk. 12:35-37; Lk.20:41-44) which always results in determined acts of self-giving. (1 Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Jn. 15:13) Agape love is the willful, joyful choice (Heb. 12:2) to put the welfare of others above your own. Christ-like (agape) love is not just an emotional attraction, but selfless, humble service to meet the needs of others, no matter how lowly the service or how underserving the person being served. (Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10; 5:3; Mt. 5:44)**

In a marriage, it transforms romantic (eros) love into a dynamic fulfilling marriage. It transforms friendship (phileo) love into a warm and meaningful bond of unselfish service, loving unselfishly and **sacrificially with no strings attached**. Because mankind is created in the image of God, there is a limited measure built into everyone. But there is not enough to give out for an extended length of time due to mankind's fallen nature, **so daily choices must be made so that God can replenish this love from His unlimited resources**. In other words, Christ-like (agape) love is not a contract because a contract has "if clauses". "If you do this, I will do that". It also has no escape clauses like contracts do. Christ-like (agape) love is a **vow of commitment** to Christ for your mate, like **Christ's vow of commitment** to every believer, free of all "if clauses" and "escape clauses".

#### SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.