

L135 | I Corinthians | Charity Never Fails | I Cor. 13:8-13

I. Intro/Review:

- Charity
 - Suffereth Long and is kind
 - Envieth not
 - Vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up
 - Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil
 - Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth
 - Beareth, believeth, hopeth, endureth all things

II. Preview:

- Charity Never Fails
 - Prophecies they shall fail
 - Tongues they shall cease
 - Knowledge shall vanish away
- The Perfect Knowledge Provides for the Perfect Man
 - The Knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Great Love provides for the Perfect Man

III. Sermon:

**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 13:8}**

- **"Charity never faileth"**
 - Set up for that which does fail
 - Rom. 9:6 - "none effect"
 - Fall, fallen (faint) - ineffective
 - 1 Cor. 13:2 - "gift of prophecy" have not charity, I am nothing
 - **"but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail;"**
 - **"prophecies"** - 1 Cor. 12:10
 - The gift of prophecy that provided the proportions of faith (Rom. 12) would eventually "fail"
 - **"they shall fail"** - future tense
 - rendered idle, unemployed, inactive, inoperative; to deprive of force, influence, power

- Rom. 3:3 - "without effect"
 - Rom. 3:31 - "make void"
 - Rom. 4:14 - "none effect"
 - Rom. 6:6 - "destroyed"
 - Rom. 7:2 - "loosed"
 - Rom. 7:6 - "delivered"
 - 1 Cor. 1:28 - "come to nought"
 - 1 Cor. 13:8 - "vanish away"
 - 1 Cor. 13:10 - "done away"
 - 1 Cor. 13:11 - "put away"
 - 1 Cor. 15:26 - "the last enemy that shall be **destroyed** is death."
 - 2 Cor. 3:7 - "which glory was to be done away:"
 - Eph. 2:15 - "having abolished in his flesh the enmity"
- The prophecies will fail just as
 1. The last enemy death shall be destroyed
 2. The glory of the letter was done away
 3. The enmity between Jew and Gentiles was abolished
- **"whether there be tongues, they shall cease;"**
 - **"tongues"** - 1 Cor. 13:1, 12:10
 - **"they shall cease"** - future tense
 - To make to desist; to restrain a thing or person from something
 - "left", "refrain"
 - Acts 5:42 - "they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."
 - Corresponds to speaking
- **"whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."**
 - **"knowledge"** - 1 Cor. 12:8 "the word of knowledge"; 1 Cor. 13:2
 - **"it shall vanish away."** - same as "fail" concerning "prophecies"
- **Summary** - charity never fails, but these spiritual gifts will; therefore, charity will stand as the greatest.
 - Three phases of development concerning God's provision in Christ
 1. Spiritual Gifts + Faith, Hope, Charity
 2. Faith, Hope, Charity (no spiritual gifts)
 3. Charity (no faith or hope)

**For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
1 Corinthians 13:9}**

- **"for we know in part, and we prophesy in part."**
 - **"for we know in part"**
 - Further explanation of the then present situation

- They have prophecies, they have tongues, they have knowledge, but they will fail, cease, and vanish away.
- The present situation is because they need it
 - They "know in part" and they "prophesy in part"; however, this "in part" is only temporary.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.
{1 Corinthians 13:10}

- **"but"** - adverse conjunction
 - Adverse to the present situation of 1 Cor. 13 - "in part" (knowledge and prophesy)
- **"when that which is perfect is come,"**
 - **"when"** - a future time which lines up with "prophecies, tongues, and knowledge" "shall" fail, cease, and vanish away.
 - **"that which is perfect is come,"**
 - **"perfect"** - contextually not "in part"
 - Never as a reference to God
 - Prophecies, tongues, and knowledge were God's temporary provision until the perfect would come and were the means to have the perfect come.
- **"then that which is in part shall be done away."**
 - "when" - "then"
 - The perfect provides for that which is "in part" to be "done away".
 - When the perfect comes that which is in part is done away

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.
{1 Corinthians 13:11}

- Illustration - of maturity, growth
 - When - When
 - When - Then
 - "in part" - "perfect"
- **"when I was a child,"**
 - Would line up with "when" of the "in part"
- Can do all the things of an adult, have all the capacity and faculties, but done childishly
 - **"I spake as a child,"** - tongues

- **"I understood as a child,"** - prophecies
- **"I thought as a child:"** - knowledge
- The childish phase of the church was when the spiritual gifts were operating
- The childish phase would be done away when the provision for growth would be provided by the perfect coming.
- **"but when I became a man,"**
 - **"I put away childish things."**
 - The church is going to become a man when the perfect comes, thus providing the church to be a perfect man.
 - A man with knowledge and understanding that can be spoken by all

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.
{1 Corinthians 13:12}

- Illustration
 - Now - Then
- **"For now we see through a glass, darkly;"**
 - **"but then face to face:"**
 - Rom. 1; Eph. 4 - foolish heart darkened (1 Cor. 2)
 - **"for now"** - the present situation of the church "in part"
 - **"we see - darkly"** - Eph. 1 - eyes of your understanding being enlightened
 - Know Christ
 - Excellency
 - Enlightened
 - 2 Cor. 3 - behold with open face
- **"now I know in part;"**
- **"but then shall I know even as also I am known."**
 - "then" - when the perfect come
 - Known as God knows us and what He has provided for us

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.
{1 Corinthians 13:13}

- **"And now abideth"**
 - **"faith,"** - work of faith
 - **"hope,"** - patience of hope
 - **"charity,"** - labor of love

- "these three;"
 - 1 The. 1
- "but the greatest of these is charity."

IV. Conclusion:

- The spiritual gifts will fail, cease, and vanish away by design as they pave the way and provide for their substitute that is "the perfect" which will come and now is come.
- Charity will never fail and therefore charity is the greatest
- Charity is what they need with the spiritual gifts and it will be what they need after the spiritual gifts are done away.