

L32: 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13: The More Excellent Way of Charity

Sermon Intro: Review/Summarize

- Gifts, Administrations, Operations
- :7-13 - diversities of gifts
 - :14-26 - differences of administrations
 - :27-31 - diversities of operations
- The gifts are given to profit withal - the whole body, therefore each function of each member of the body is important, in fact:
 - Useful,
 - Cooperate,
 - Serve,
 - Welfare
- God gave these gifts to each member of the body to profit the whole body, but there is a more excellent way in which God provides to each member of the body that profits the whole body.

Sermon Preview:

- Spiritual gifts are a less excellent way compared to the more excellent way
- The arrival of the perfect to produce the more excellent way, the greatest ministry of the Holy Spirit to produce charity in each member of the body to profit withal, or edify itself.
- The phases of spiritual gifts, to the triplet of faith, hope, and charity, to the greatest charity.

Sermon:

The Diversities of Operations

- :28 - "God hath set some in the church"
 - :11 - "Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."
 - :18 - "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him."
 - Just as God has set every member in the body, so has he set some in the church.
- :28 - Order

- 1) Apostle, 2) Prophets, 3) Teachers, 4) Miracles, 5) Gifts of Healings, 6) Helps, 7) Governments, and 8) Diversities of Tongues.
 - Rank of the gifts partly due to :31 - "best gifts", and 14:1 - "follow...spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy"
 - Stress the significance of the communication of the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that comes from God's Word to profit withal.
 - Edification - link to 1 Cor. 10:23 (charity) and bring up in 1 Cor. 14:4ff
- :29-30 - God has not set some in the church to have the same gifts as members of the body.
 - Answer to each question is - no.
 - Point: the Corinthians ought to see the wisdom in God's liberal-to-His pleasing distribution of the gifts to profit withal and count it a privilege to labor with Him in His operations in the specific manner that their spiritual gift provided for, as well as, the unity it would bring not by virtue of the spiritual gifts that each possessed which differed, but in God's operation of their fellowship, interaction, and behavior together as the whole body.
- :31 - Imperative followed by Superlative
 - Imperative
 - **"but"** - adverse conjunction
 - **"covet earnestly the best gifts"** - the Corinthians are not coveting the best gifts, but the least gifts
 - Superlative
 - **"yet"** - even your earnestly desiring of the best gifts there is something more and above the best gifts.
 - **"shew I unto you"** - 1 Corinthians 13
 - **"a more excellent way"** - way of what?
 - **"a more"** - Greater in quality, degree or amount;
 - **"excellent"** - Being of great virtue or worth; eminent or distinguished for what is amiable, valuable or laudable
 - Being of great value or use, applied to things; remarkable for good properties

- A way of God providing for each member of the body to profit withal.

1 Corinthians 13 - A More Excellent Way

- Charity
 - Its' excellency (:1-3)
 - Its' effectualness (:4-7)
 - quality, nature, power, fruit, what it works, what it IS
 - Its' endurance (:8-13)
- Its' Excellency
 - Without it - one is nothing
 - Without it - profits nothing
 - Good acts without the knowledge of God's love being the cause of your goodness, therefore His goodness, it will profit you nothing.
 - Good deeds with the knowledge of God's love being the cause of your goodness, therefore His goodness, will profit you something, but it is His glory.
 - Charity becomes the sound we play from instruments of the members of our mortal bodies
 - Romans 6:11ff
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- Its' Effectualness
 - What Charity, does, does not, is, and is not
 1. Suffers long
 2. Kind
 3. Envieth not
 4. Vaunteth not itself
 5. Not puffed up
 6. Doth not behave itself unseemly
 7. Seeketh not her own
 8. Not easily provoked
 9. Thinketh no evil

10. Rejoiceth not in iniquity
11. Rejoiceth in the truth
12. Beareth all things
13. Believeth all things
14. Hopeth all things
15. Endureth all things

- Its' Endurance

- The comparison to the spiritual gifts

- :8 - Charity never faileth - but prophecies, tongues, and knowledge (fail, cease, vanish away)
 - Attached to specific gifts that which communicate words
 - God has attached His charity to His Word(s)
 - :9 - Explanation of the failure of the gifts that communicate words and in those words wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
 - "for we know in part, and we prophesy in part"
 - They possess some knowledge, but are dependent on prophesy for the other part.
 - The Corinthians were living in the time of "in part", they knew some things, but didn't know other things and God supplemented those other things by prophesy.
 - :10 - "but when that which is perfect is come"
 - "when" - temporal relationship (when is the timing)
 - "is perfect" - not "in part" is come
 - "then that which is in part shall be done away"
 - "done away" - final expression of fail, cease, and vanish away
 - :11 - Illustration of mental development from childhood to adulthood
 - Child - the time when we truth would be in part allowing for a illustration of maturity reflective of the mental development of a child and the child's capacities
 - Spoke as a child
 - Understand as a child

- Thought as a child
- A Man - puts away childish things (speak, understand, and thinking)
 - Not that the man speaks, understands, and thinks, that is different from a child, but the manner or how or his ability based upon something more he possesses as an adult.
 - Begin to speak, understand, and think like a man, like an adult which effects what? - behavior, conduct
- :12 - Declarative
 - **"for now we see through a glass darkly"**
 - **"for now"** - During the Corinthians "in part" phase, before the perfect comes which is all knowledge
 - If the "in part" correlates to our time on earth, what makes "the perfect" not correlate to our time on earth.
 - **"we see through a glass darkly"**
 - During "in part" they saw through a glass, but darkly due to its' "in part" nature
 - If we were given a description in the Bible that we see through a glass, but not darkly would that prove that "the perfect is come"
 - **"but then face to face"**
 - 2 Corinthians 3 & 4 - the mystery of the new testament through Paul's ministry would provide for the perfect, providing for each member of the body of Christ to be a perfect man
 - Ephesians 4
 - 2 Timothy 3:15ff
 - **"now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."**
 - "then" when the perfect is come
 - God wants us to know how were are known now and how

much He loves us now, yes with promise He will love us even more in the future and from that know others, love others

- Ephesians 2 & 4

- :13 - Its' eternal endurance
 - "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three"
 - These three will abide on even once the perfect is come
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:3
 - "but the greatest of these is charity"
 - The greatest of the three is because of its' endurance.
 - One day our faith will be sight, when we see Christ no longer in a glass
 - One day our hope will be realized
 - But one day we will continue to be charitable.

Sermon Conclusion: Review/Summarize

- God's character of charity learned by perfect knowledge through the word of God is the more excellent way that we members of the body of Christ no longer in the phase of "in part" have the privilege to gain know as we are known and operate in that charity with each other.