



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

August 1, 2021

1 Corinthians 13: The Greatest Gift

1. VERSES 1-3: Love: Love is what makes these gifts special – the secret sauce. Love is the thing you should pursue.
2. VERSES 4-7: Love: What's it made of? What kinds of things that love does? What kinds of things love does not do?
3. VERSES 8-13: Love: Love is the supreme and eternal gift.

1. Love is what makes these gifts special!

I could speak beautifully, but if I don't love, I'm just an annoying clanging sound.

If I have faith that can move mountains, but do not love, I am nothing.

If I give all that I have to the poor, but do not love, I gain nothing.

To have love, to be loved, to know what love is, and to show that same love to others, matters above all else.

Without love, we are no good to anyone, we cannot answer any of God's great purposes for our lives, all our efforts would be in vain, and we are still lost in our sin.

2. What does love do and not do?

- Patient, kind, rejoices in truth, protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres.
- Not envious, not boastful, not proud, not dishonor others, not self-seeking, not easily angered, no record of wrongs, not delight in evil,

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." (Stephen Grellet)

3. **Love is the supreme and eternal gift.**

*The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
(Romans 13:9-10)*

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. (1 Corinthians 13:8)

How can I grow in love?

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. (1 John 4:15-17)

HOME GROUP Questions for 1 Corinthians 13...

1. When have you experienced a time when your great skill or talent or effort did not have its intended impact because it was lacking in love? Why is Paul so adamant about the meaninglessness of all these things without love?
2. Which of the characteristics of love given in vs. 4-7 is most difficult for you to put into practice in your own life? How has Jesus exhibited love perfectly in the way Paul describes?
3. Paul describes love as eternal and connects it with knowing God fully when Jesus returns. How does this eternal, all-knowing love of God fill you with hope now for knowing God fully when that time comes?
4. Why is love even greater than faith and hope? What is it about love that causes it to endure in a way that faith and hope will not? How does love allow our faith and hope to grow now?