

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 13
The Excellence of Love

1 Corinthians 12:31b (ESV) — ... And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1. The ABSENCE of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (ESV) — If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

➤ **I OFFEND others**

1 Corinthians 13:1 (ESV) — If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

➤ **I ACCOMPLISH nothing**

1 Corinthians 13:2 (ESV) — And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

➤ **I GAIN nothing**

1 Corinthians 13:3 (ESV) — If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

2. The ESSENCE of Love

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (ESV) — Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

➤ **Love is patient and kind in all THINGS, at all TIMES, towards all PEOPLE**

1 Corinthians 13:4a (ESV) — Love is patient and kind...

➤ **Love conquers the darkness within OURSELVES**

1 Corinthians 13:4b–5a (ESV) — ... love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way...

➤ **Love conquers the darkness in OTHERS**

1 Corinthians 13:5b–6 (ESV) — ... it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

➤ **Love conquers darkness in EVERYTHING**

1 Corinthians 13:7 (ESV) — Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

3. The ENDLESSNESS of Love

1 Corinthians 13:8–13 (ESV) — 8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

In this last section he compares love with the gifts...

➤ **Gifts are TEMPORAL, Love is ETERNAL**

1 Corinthians 13:8–10 (ESV) — Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

We are living in the period of Spiritual Gifts and will continue in these until the perfect comes...

What is the perfect?

1 Corinthians 1:4–8 (ESV) — I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The perfect is Jesus! ... His return, His restoration...

Believers are already SAVED, but not yet COMPLETED because the Lord has already BEGUN, but is not yet FINISHED!

1 Corinthians 13:11–13 (ESV) — When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Through the Spiritual Gifts we have...

Partial Understanding, Partial Vision, Partial Knowledge...

As I have said many times...

At best we are all preschoolers regarding God's Kingdom!

This is why we must ...

Trust the Lord

Test the Gifts

***1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 (ESV) — Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast
what is good.***

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The Excellence of Love**

1. The _____ of Love

➤ I _____ others

➤ I _____ nothing

➤ I _____ nothing

2. The _____ of Love

➤ Love is patient and kind in all _____, at all _____,
towards all _____

➤ Love conquers the darkness within _____

➤ Love conquers the darkness in _____

➤ Love conquers darkness in _____

3. The _____ of Love

➤ Gifts are _____, Love is _____

➤ Believers are already _____, but not yet _____
because the Lord has already _____, but is not yet
_____!