1 Corinthians 13

Love- Agape is the better way. Charity-agape, a selfless love that does what is best for the object of love. This is a love of the will, given by the Holy Spirit. This love is not void of affection, but it is not based on affection.

V1-3 The necessity of love in all service to the Lord. Exercise all gifts in love.

V4_7 The characteristics of love.

The Nature of Love

Relations- suffers long, is kind, doesn't envy, doesn't promote self, not easily provoked, doesn't plan harm, doesn't devise evil, rejoice in truth, doesn't put up with iniquity.

Circumstances- bear all things, believes all things, has hope, endures doesn't fail.

V8-13 Permanence of Love

Gifts will end, but love will endure.

Gifts are sign gifts are compared to childish things, which will come to an end. Most believe this is referring to the passing away of the sign gifts with the completion of God's word.

V13 For the church faith hope and charity will remain- charity (agape) is the greatest-see the New Commandment in Jn 13

1 Corinthians 14

This chapter deals with the misuse of the gift of tongues and disorder in public worship. A clear point here is that if all things are done in charity these issues won't come up.

V1 It's good to desire spiritual gifts, but prophecy (the proclamation of the Word is primary) is far more important and beneficial for the church. 3 guidelines

1. follow- a command, a persistent, strong pursuit. Lit. never stop loving.
2. desire- an intense desire, to serve
3. prophecy-teaching and preaching, the key to a Christ centered ministry

V2 tongues- real languages spoken by those who do not know them, used to authenticate the gospel.

V3 The church at Corinth did not really need to use tongues, some used them to bring glory to themselves. The church needed edification and encouragement. A reminder that the church is not a place of entertainment or self-glorification.

V4 One speaking in an unknown tongue puts himself in a place of superiority but not one who edifies the body.

V5-11 Need for clarity and understanding in order to bring edification. Profiting the body comes from giving truth, teaching doctrine, and proclaiming the word.

V12 Regardless of a believer's spiritual gift, each member of the body should seek the edifying of the body.

V13-21 Any teaching in the church should bring understanding. V19 gifts, while given by the Spirit, are under the control of the believer. To speak 5 words of understanding is better than many in a tongue.

V22 Purpose of tongues- tongues are a sign to the lost, they are not for believers.

23-25 Tongues are used to authenticate the gospel. To use them in a church would cause confusion and no edification, no glory to God.

V26-38 regulations for use of tongues and prophecy

1. Let all I church be done for edification

2. Tongues are to be spoken by men only and a maximum of 2. One may speak at a time and only if there is an interpreter, v27-28.

3. Prophets may speak one by one, maximum of 3, the other prophets judge the accuracy of the message, v29-33

4. Women- may not speak. This means in the place of a preacher and teacher in the combined worship service. NOTE- women may teach other women, and children. Women should ask their husbands if they have questions or need clarification v34-35.

5. The spiritual individual will heed these directions so that the church operates to edify believers.