

1 Corinthians 13

“Some Things are More Important than How Much You Know”

February 25, 2024

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 The goal of the Christian life is growth; moving from fleshliness to spiritual maturity. Maturity is perfected not in knowledge or demonstration of spiritual gifts, but in love for one another.

Leviticus 19:18 ...you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD. See **Matthew 22:36ff** This is the foremost commandment.

Galatians 5:14 and **Romans 13:10** ...love is the fulfillment of the law.

1 Timothy 1:5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Learning the Word for the sake of learning is not the goal; learning the Word for the purpose of growing in love is the purpose of instruction.

1 Corinthians 13:1,2 Eloquent speech and angelic utterances, without love, are all flash and no substance; they are hollow. Reciting the Bible and understanding all its nuances and having enough faith to move mountains are nothing, if one does not have love.

Galatians 5:22,23 Love is a fruit of the Spirit, in contrast to the spiritual gifts of tongues, prophecy, and teaching, among others. Some in the church in Corinth were manifesting their spiritual gifts in a big way, yet at the same time they were not manifesting the fruit of the Spirit the way they should have been doing.

13:3,4 “patient” = to bear up under provocation without complaint; to remain tranquil while waiting

“kind” = merciful

vv. 5,6 “unbecomingly” = disgracefully, indecently

“seek its own” = self-seeking

v. 7 “endures” = to maintain a belief or course of action in the face of opposition; to wait for with persistence

v. 8 Love never fails [passes from the scene]...

v. 10 perfect (*teleios* = mature, completed)

13:11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

A self-centeredness and preoccupation with one’s own perspective is the hallmark of childish immaturity; an “other-orientedness” is the hallmark of maturity, both individually on the social developmental level, but particularly as involves the church and how believers interact with one another.

The “Christian Ethic” is to have a rational preoccupation with the welfare of those around you. It is to live in a constant awareness of how your own behavior is impacting those in your midst in real time and how your behavior might impact others in the future.

Ephesians 4:11-15 The goal for the Body of Christ (the Church), as well as for us as individuals, is maturity. As the Body of Christ matures, some gifts fall away, until the Day that we see Jesus face to face.

vv. 12,13 When we see Christ face to face, then our faith will be realized, and our hope will be fulfilled. *But love will continue for eternity.*

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Romans 5:7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.