

1 Corinthians 13

The Nature of true Christian love

LOVE 1-13 This chapter is also known as the Love chapter

Question: What is love without hate? It is not real love.

God loves "Good: and hates "Evil"

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

The word charity is also translated to love (agape in the greek).

Charity is mentioned 9 times in this verse.

2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

"Feed the poor" just giving to the poor, in itself is not "Charity" as defined in this chapter. Without true Christian charity, I am nothing. (13:2) and have nothing.

New Bibles will change the word charity to love.

The word charity is the proper word to be used, because it reminds us that real love is a hand out. A free gift, given freely, without any hope of receiving.

4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

"Charity suffereth long" Charity is defined by verbs rather than adjectives, by what it does instead of what it is

Vaunted: Vainly boasted or displayed

Verse 4-8 has a total of 16 characteristics of Charity

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| 1. Suffereth long | Positive |
| 2. And is kind | Positive |
| 3. Envieth not | Positive |
| 4. Vaunteth not | Positive |
| 5. Not puffed up | Positive |

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

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|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Not behave itself unseemly | Positive |
| 2. Seeketh not her own | Positive |
| 3. Not easily provoked | Positive |
| 4. Thinketh no evil | Positive |

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

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|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Rejoiceth not in iniquity | Positive |
| 2. Rejoiceth in the truth | Positive |

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

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|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. Beareth all thing | Positive |
| 2. Believeth all things | Positive |
| 3. Hopeth all things | Positive |
| 4. Endureth all things | Positive |

8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

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|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. Charity never faileth | Positive |
|--------------------------|----------|

Charity never faileth: this bold statement from the Apostle Paul introduces a contrast within the spiritual gifts which will not last. Pauls want these followers to know that these gifts, one day, would no longer be needed. But love or charity would.

“They shall fail” (Fail) = Vanish away

All three of these supernatural gifts would eventually become useless and would therefore be withdrawn by the Holy Spirit.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

The church at Corinth, has only part of God’s revelation. Paul has yet to finish his part of the New Testament writings.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

This verse has been debated over centuries. Does this mean when Christ returns at His second coming? The reason I don't believe this verse is referring to Christ at His second coming is the verbage.

“That which is perfect” (That) is a neuter pronoun.

I lean towards the Bible, And to mean when the completion of the New Testament Canon.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Paul is referring to his carnal congregation as "babes" (1 Cor.3:1).

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

This could be a mirror which shows us as we are, and encourages us to make needed changes in our lives.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

These three gifts. These ordinary gifts of the Spirit will no doubt continue until the second coming of Jesus Christ. But at that time, even faith and hope will no longer be needed. Charity however will continue forever.....

Therefore the greatest is Charity?