

The Expression of God's Love

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Introduction:

“God’s love, the perfect gift, the preeminent grace, the permanent virtue, the proof of sonship and daughterhood, the prerequisite to faith, the path upon which Christians must walk, and the prescription for a happy home. The wonderful love of God”. - **David Jeremiah**

I. The distortion when love is absent.

A. When love is absent our ministry is wrong.

1 Corinthians 13:1 *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. (V.2) And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge;*

“Paul insists that love is critical to any understanding and application of spiritual gifts. If love is absent, spiritual gifts do not edify.” - **Tony Evans**

B. When love is absent our motives are wrong.

1 Corinthians 13:2 . . . and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. (V.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.

Matthew 6:4 . . . thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

II. The distinctives when love is active.

A. When genuine love is present it demonstrates patience.

1 Corinthians 13:4 *Charity suffereth long . . .*

“One must be mastered by love before one can minister in love. Love always has a long fuse. Love expresses itself through vigilant patience.”

- **Jerry Vines**

B. When genuine love is present it demonstrates kindness.

1 Corinthians 13:4 . . . and is kind;

III. The distraction when love is altered.

A. Love is altered when it is expressed with a wrong attitude.

1 Corinthians 13:4 . . . charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, (V.5) Doth not behave itself unseemly,

“Human love is but a shadow, tainted by selfishness. At the heart of this kind of love is the concept of sacrifice. Agape love gives itself completely with no thought of anything in return.” - **David Jeremiah.**

B. Love is altered when it is expressed with a wrong action.

1 Corinthians 13:5 . . . seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

C. Love is altered when it is expressed with a wrong affiliation.

1 Corinthians 13:6 . . . Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 13:7 *Bearth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (V.8) Charity never faileth:*

