A wooden heart with a burlap cross on a dark wood background. The heart is made of light-colored wood and has a dark outline. The cross is made of burlap fabric and is positioned on the right side of the heart. The background is a dark, textured wood surface.

Summer of Love

A Study of 1 Corinthians 13

A wooden heart and a burlap cross are positioned on a dark, textured wooden surface. The heart is on the left, and the cross is on the right, partially overlapping the heart's edge. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the wood and burlap.

Love: Its Attributes

Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant. 1 Cor. 13:4

1. The History at Corinth

“The Lord said to Paul in a night vision, ‘Don’t be afraid, but keep on speaking and don’t be silent. For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city.’ He stayed there a year and a half, teaching the word of God among them.” - Acts 18:9-11

1a. Its Problems

“Paul devoted himself to preaching the word and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. When they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his clothes and told them, ‘Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.’” – Acts 18:5b-6

1b. Its Potential

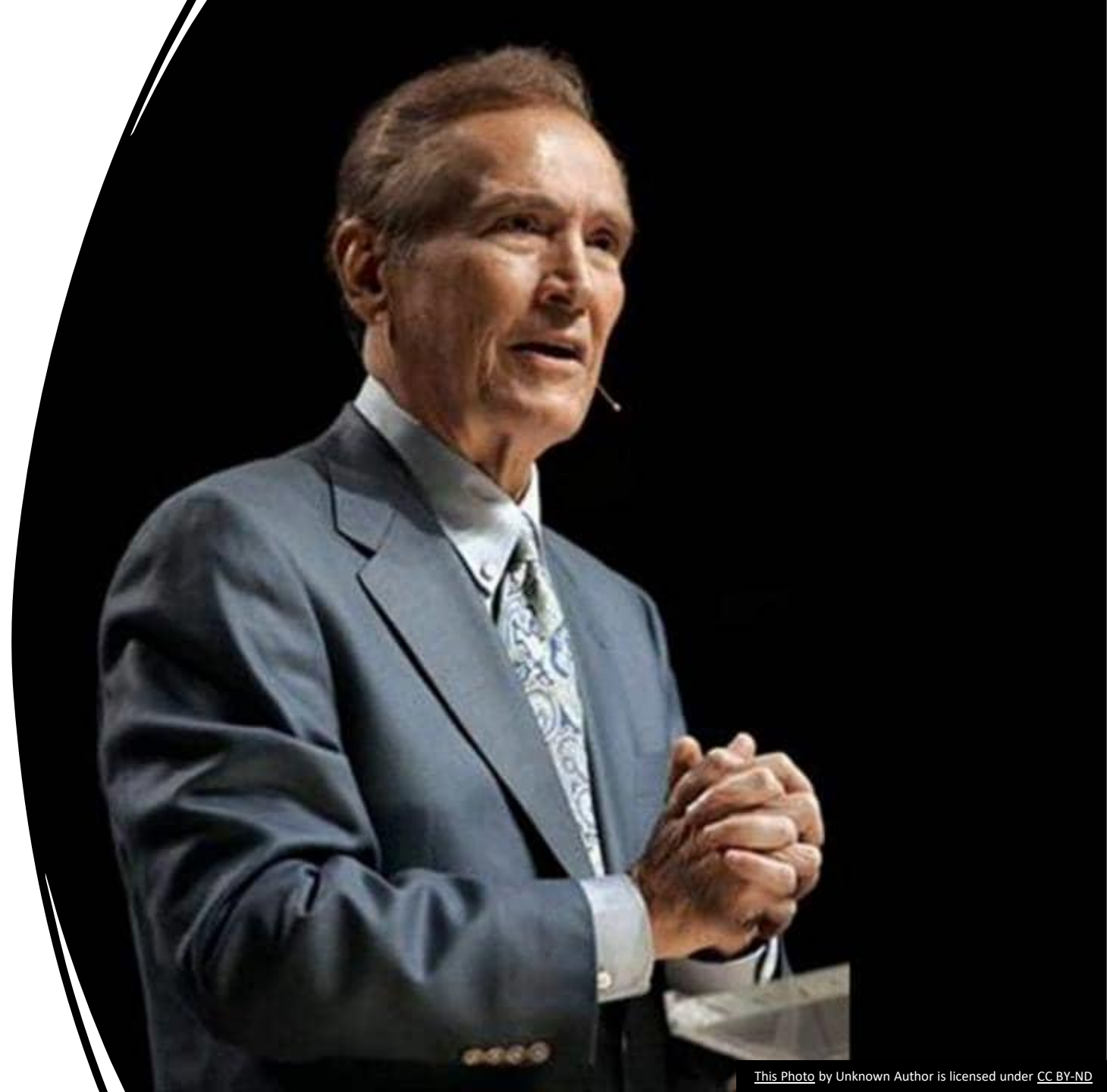
“So he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, along with his whole household. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.” – Acts 18:7-8

2. The Highest Love

“In this **the love of God was made manifest** among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins...So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**”

1 John 4:9-10, 16

“Jesus became
forever like me,
that I might
become forever
like him.” –
Adrian Rogers



2a. Its Person – Jesus Christ

“I ask that you’ll have the power to grasp love’s width and length, height and depth, together with all the believers. I ask that you’ll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:18-19

“God loves us; not because we are loveable but because He is love, not because He needs to receive but because He delights to give.”
– CS Lewis



2b. Its Principles – Patient & Kind

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” – Psalm 103:8

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9



“Hell is a place of no pleasure because there is no love there. Heaven is full of music because it is the place where the pleasures of holy love abound. Earth is the place where the pleasures of love are mixed with pain, for sin is here, and hate and ill will. In such a world as ours love must sometimes suffer, as Christ suffered in giving Himself for His own. But we have the certain promise that the causes of sorrow will finally be abolished and the new face enjoy forever a world of selfless, perfect love.” – AW Tozer

2b. Its Principles: Patient & Kind

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit.” Galatians 5:22-25

2c. Its Practice

“Dear friends, let’s love each other; because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn’t love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

Closing Illustration:

New married couple driving home from honeymoon. Tractor trailer – swerved to miss – tailspin, crash. Groom ok, bride bleeding profusely. He got out of the car, a little a way, saw a sign: “The office of Dr. Rufus Jones – Internal Medicine.”

Picked up wife, carried her there – banged on the door.

Dr. Jones came to door, “I’m sorry, son. I can’t help you. You see, I stopped practicing medicine many years ago. I don’t have any equipment here. I don’t have medical supplies. I stopped practicing medicine a long time ago.”

Dr. Jones, if you can no longer help hurting people, then please take down the sign.

World of people bleeding to death – Give them Dr. Jesus, medicine of Holy Spirit, healing power of the Word – If we are not going to be the hospital – take the sign down!

Be the hospital, practicing physicians, don’t let them die on the doorstep