

1 Corinthians 13 The Love Chapter (13 verses)

1) Love is introduced as the upcoming topic, “the most excellent way.”

1 Cor 12:31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

2) Love is greater than... (partial review of gifts mentioned in Ch 12)

v. 1 If I speak in the **tongues of men or of angels**, but do not have **love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the **gift of prophecy** and can fathom all mysteries and all **knowledge**, and if I have a **faith** that can move mountains, **but do not have love, I am nothing**. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and **give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing**.

3) A lasting description of Biblical love.

v. 4 **Love is patient**, love is kind. **It does not envy**, it does not boast, it is not proud.

(Unsanctified ambition)

v. 5 **It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.**

“no record of wrongs” examples: keeping hurtful texts, emails and letters.

v. 6 **Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.**

v. 7 It always **protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**

v. 8 **Love never fails.** But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

4) We only know the things of God in part.

v. 9 **For we know in part and we prophesy in part**, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 **For now** we see only a reflection as in a mirror; **then** we shall see face to face. **Now** I know in part; **then** I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

5) Three things will abide, faith, hope and love.

v. 13 (And **now** these three remain: **faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.**

1 Corinthians 14 The proper use of Spiritual Gifts. (40 verses)

1) This first phrase of this chapter concludes the last chapter on love.

v. 1 Follow the way of love..

Story: My personal prayer: “May I have a greater capacity to extend love to You in the ways You receive it and may I have a greater capacity to receive love in the ways You extend it.”

- 2) **It's good to desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of Prophecy.**
 v. 1 Follow the way of love and **eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit**, especially **prophecy**.
- 3) **When we speak in Tongues, we are speaking to God by the Holy Spirit.**
 v. 2 For **anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God**. Indeed, no one understands them; **they utter mysteries by the Spirit**.
- 4) **The person who prophesies is speaking to the people.**
 v. 3 But **the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort**.

Question: Are these the only 3 functions of NT prophecy?

- a. **Strengthening**
- b. **Encouraging**
- c. **Comforting**

- 5) **There is a personal benefit for speaking or praying in Tongues.**
 v. 4 **Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves**, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

Jude 20 But you, dear friends, by **building yourselves up** in your most holy faith and **praying in the Holy Spirit**,

- 6) **Tongues is good, but prophecy is better for the Church.**
 v. 5 **I would like every one of you to speak in tongues**, but **I would rather have you prophesy**. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, **so that the church may be edified**.

1 Cor 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given **for the common good**.

- 7) **Public Tongues without Interpretation don't benefit the Church.**
 v. 6 Now, brothers and sisters, if **I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction?** 7 Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? 8 Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? 9 So it is with you. **Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air.** 10 Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 11 **If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me.**

8) Spiritual gifts are primarily intended to bring spiritual benefits to the church.

v. 12 Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, **try to excel in those that build up the church.** 13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should **pray that they may interpret what they say.**

9) Praying and singing in Tongues originates within our spirit, not our mind.

v. 14 For if **I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays**, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? **I will pray with my spirit**, but I will also pray with my understanding; **I will sing with my spirit**, but I will also sing with my understanding. 16 Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? 17 You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.

10) Paul endorsed speaking in Tongues, but said the church must have clarity.

v. 18 I thank God that **I speak in tongues more than all of you.** 19 **But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.** 20 Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. 21 In the Law it is written: "With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." 22 **Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers.**

11) Paul contrasted the misuse of Tongues with the proper use of Prophecy.

v. 23 So if the whole church comes together and **everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?** 24 **But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all,** 25 as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

12) This may be how the earliest church meetings functioned.

v. 26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? **When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation.** Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

13) A few guidelines for the public exercise of Tongues.

v. 27 **If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.** 28 **If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.**

14) How should the following words on Prophecy be interpreted and applied?

v. 29 **Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.** 30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. 31 **For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.** 32 **The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.**

Acts 19:6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and **prophesied. There were about twelve men** in all.

15) The main focus of this chapter about using the Gifts in an orderly manner.

v. 33 **For God is not a God of disorder but of peace**—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.

16) Did Paul forbid all women from speaking in all gatherings of the Church?

v. 34 **Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak,** but must be in submission, as the law says. 35 **If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.** 36 Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? 37 If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that **what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.** 38 But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 on Interruptions at Lectures: “While addressing the topic of church order, Paul briefly digresses from his contrast of prophecy and tongues and regulations concerning them to address the interruptions of some women occurring during the teaching period of the church service...Biblical law includes no specific text that enjoins silence or submission on women,.. Paul counters an objection of Corinthian prophetesses, who do not think they should be in subjection; although Paul may not believe they should be subjected in all cultures, that they were in the Old Testament period suggests that it is not wrong for them to be submissive in some cultural settings... Paul does not expect these uneducated women to refrain from learning (indeed, that most of their culture had kept them from learning was the *problem*). Instead he provides the most progressive model of his day: their husbands are to respect their intellectual capabilities and give them private instruction. He wants them to stop interrupting the teaching period of the church service, however, because until they know more, they are distracting everyone and disrupting church order.” *IVP Bible Background Commentary*

17) “Therefore” introduces the main points, concluding with orderly meetings.

v. 39 **Therefore,** my brothers and sisters, **be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.** 40 **But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.**

1 Corinthians 15 Important chapter on the Resurrection. (58 verses)

1) Paul preached the centrality of the Gospel of Christ everywhere he went.

v. 1 Now, brothers and sisters, **I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.** 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

2) This is believed to be the earliest recorded Christian Creed.

v. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.**

3) Paul gives the most complete list of witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection.

v. 5 and that he appeared to **Cephas**, and then to **the Twelve**. 6 After that, he appeared to more than **five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time**, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to **James**, then to **all the apostles**, 8 and last of all **he appeared to me** also, as to one abnormally born.

4) Was Paul including himself among the original Apostles of Christ?

v. 9 For **I am the least of the apostles** and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

5) If Jesus wasn't raised, we are still lost in our sins.

v. 12 But if **it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead**, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 **If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.** 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 **For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.** 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

6) Jesus is the "First-fruits" of the Resurrection.

v. 19 **If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.** 20 But **Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: **Christ, the firstfruits**; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, **when he hands over the kingdom to God**

the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

7) The last enemy that we will face is Death. (see Rev 20:13-14)

v. 26 **The last enemy** to be destroyed is **death**. 27 For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

8) Is the following an endorsement for vicariously baptizing dead people?

v. 29 **Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?** 30 And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Note: Based primarily on this passage, the Mormons (LDS) teach that vicarious or proxy Baptism for the dead is an ordinance of the church. It is performed only in their temples, and is based on the belief that their version of water baptism is required for entry into the Kingdom of God.

9) When did Paul fight wild beasts in Ephesus and what is he talking about?

v. 32 **If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,** "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

2 Cor 1:8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the **troubles we experienced in the province of Asia**. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that **we despaired of life itself**. 9 Indeed, **we felt we had received the sentence of death**. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on **God, who raises the dead**. 10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again.

10) Mortal bodies versus our immortal bodies and our resurrection.

v. 35 But someone will ask, "**How are the dead raised? With what kind of body** will they come?" 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 **When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed**, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 **There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies;** but the splendor of the **heavenly bodies** is one

kind, and the splendor of the **earthly bodies** is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. **The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.** 45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 **As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.** 50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.**

Luke 23:42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, **today** you will be with me in paradise."

2 Cor 5:6 **As long as we are in these bodies, we are away from the Lord.** 7 But we live by faith, not by what we see. 8 We should be cheerful, because **we would rather leave these bodies and be at home with the Lord.** CEV

11) The mystery of what occurs at the last trumpet sound.

v. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For **the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.** 53 For **the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.** 54 When **the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality,** then the saying that is written will come true: "**Death has been swallowed up in victory.**" 55 "Where, **O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"** 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to **God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** 58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm. Let nothing move you.** Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.