

The Greatest Gift - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

Why is it that most of the time, when we think of love, we think of music? The old-school "love ballad" is the foundation of just about every type of music, from rock to country to pop. It's as if we cannot get enough of love. Some would say, in fact, All We Need is Love. There is a certain Power of Love that we cannot deny, but the question still remains, What's Love Got to Do With It? And if you picked up all those cheesy song titles in this intro, well done!

In this chapter of 1 Corinthians, we see that the church's primary identifier, the thing that makes the church look like "The Church" is love. However, this chapter isn't just a cool set of verses to read at a wedding to give people the warm and fuzzies. This chapter, set in the context of spiritual gifting, shows us something about how the church is to be seen and known.

We have discussed spiritual gifts for a few weeks now, and we have talked about some of the excesses used by many churches. The deal is, that is a true reality. Many churches have resorted to using spiritual gifting as the draw to get people into the doors. From mass healings to tent revivals where people are pulled out of wheelchairs, to people seeing the presence of God in gold glitter floating around the room, healing and miracles are big business in the church. Churches have "open-mic prophecy night" where people stand up and just yell stuff, supposedly prophecies or words of knowledge. The bottom line is, healing and miracles are big business in churches, and many churches use them to draw people in and, unfortunately, take their money.

Titus 1 warns us that false teachers will come amongst us and will lead many families away by teaching things that ought not to be taught. When we examine the church around us, what we see is a lack of love. Often the misuse of giftings becomes a sideshow which takes away from what is actually important: The use of the gifts is meant to be an act of love one for another, and if we are able to do incredible miracles and crazy signs and wonders, and yet lack love, we are, according to 1 Corinthians, "clanging cymbals", "noisy gongs", or worse, nothing at all.

Paul finishes out his point by describing how love shapes people, and, ultimately, how love shapes Christ's church. Love makes us patient, kind, it destroys pride, it makes us polite, it prefers the other instead of self, it makes us pleasant, it rejoices in truth. And as a church, it does the same thing for us as a body. And just to put a fine point on it, the church, as it loves, as it puts on the characteristics of love, puts on the characteristics of Christ Himself. To love is to look like Christ.

One day, whether on this world or in the next, prophecy and tongues and miracles will cease. Why? We won't them anymore. We will always need love, however, because God is love! If we want Him, we want love; and if we want love, we need Him. And that love will always be with us, both as individuals and as a body, from now through eternity.

The last verse says, "Faith, hope and love abide; these three; but the greatest of these is love." One day, faith will become sight; one day hope will become reality. But God's ever-present, all-encompassing love for us? It will never go away and will only become more real from now to eternity.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Chronicles 4	2 Chron 5	2 Chron 6	2 Chron 7	2 Chron 8	2 Chron 9	2 Chron 10

Reading from this past week: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Family Worship

Song - *Cornerstone*

<https://youtu.be/QvLxZEU02ul>

Gospel Project

Story: The Last Supper

Story Point: Jesus commanded His followers to remember His sacrifice.

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do to save us?

Answer: Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Scripture: Mark 14

New City Catechism

Question #43: What are the Sacraments and Ordinances?

Answer: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Verse: Romans 6:4

Scripture

1 Corinthians 14:1-12

*What are some of the examples Paul uses to show a person who has great gifts but no love? What does this teach us about the importance of love?

*How is Paul's description of love different from the type of love we learn about in the world?

*Why is the greatest thing love?

Prayer

*Pray that the love of Christ would transform us and that we would love each other deeply.

*Pray for families in our city with COVID.