

Love

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I. Introduction.

- A. There is a relationship between cause and effect.
- B. The context of 1 Corinthians 13.
 - 1. I Corinthians 12 - we are all part of the body of Christ.
 - 2. God has put the many parts of the body where He wants it.

II. Love is fulfilling my gift within the body of Christ. (John 5:41, 1 Corinthians 13)

- A. Love is what you do - it does not depend upon a feeling.
- B. Love covers all sin. Forgive and forget like Jesus did. (1 Peter 4:8)
- C. Love is patient and kind. This means that it suffers long. (1 Peter 2:21)
- D. Love is never jealous or envious.
- E. Love is never boastful or proud.
 - 1. It is not ashamed to do lowly work.
 - 2. Love is to be useful.
- F. Love is not rude - it does not make fun of people or classes.
- G. If you love someone you will be loyal to someone no matter what the cost.

Application questions

1. Why is the context of 1 Corinthians important for understanding love?

2. Which characteristic of love in 1 Corinthians 13 stands out to you? Why?

3. What area of your life do you find it difficult to love in? How can a better understanding of love help you deal with that area?

I Corinthians 13

Living Bible

If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise.

If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love.

If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever.

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong.

It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.

If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.

All the special gifts and powers from God will some day come to an end, but love goes on forever. Some day prophecy, and speaking in unknown languages, and special knowledge - these gifts will disappear.

Now we know so little, even with our special gifts, and the preaching of those most gifted is still so poor.

But when we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end, and they will disappear.

It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things.

In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.

There are three things that remain - faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love.