

I Corinthians 13 Love

- I. Intro
  - a. Love – the “more excellent way” of 12:31 – gifts of the spirit not as important as the fruit of the spirit
  - b. Paul’s aim – show importance of love being the motivation behind everything
  - c. Love – agape – highest and noblest form of love. “Putting the needs of others above yours.”
- II. Love Contrasted 1-3
  - a. With eloquence 1, 2:1
  - b. With prophecy 2, Mt. 14:5, 21:11
  - c. With knowledge 2, 8:1-6
  - d. With faith 2, Mk. 11:22-25
  - e. With benevolence 3
  - f. With Martyrdom 3
- III. Love analyzed 4-7
  - a. Suffers long – patience 4
  - b. Kind – gentleness 4
  - c. Envy not – generosity 4, Rm. 12:15
  - d. Vaunts, puffed – humility 4, Mt. 11:28-30
  - e. Unseemly – courtesy 5
  - f. Seeks not her own – unselfishness 5
  - g. Not easily provoked – temperance 5
  - h. Thinks no evil – forgiveness 5
  - i. Rejoices not in iniquity – sincerity 6-7
  - j. Bears – loyal; believes – trustworthy; hopes – optimistic; endures – committed, v. 7.
- IV. Love Defended 8-13
  - a. Love never fails 8
  - b. However, these will cease (8-13): prophecy, tongues, knowledge, faith, hope
  - c. Paul understood the temporary nature of spiritual gifts. Only 2 ways the Holy Spirit could be given to people (Ac. 2, 10, 5:14-15)
  - d. There are at least 4 interpretations of “But when that which is perfect is come,” v.10:
    - i. Some think it refers to Jesus
    - ii. Some think it refers to Heaven
    - iii. Some think it refers to mature knowledge produced by love (fits the context, but can’t exist apart from the completed revelation of God’s Word).
    - iv. Some think it refers to the completed written revelation of God’s Word
  - e. Perfect – “culmination of a process” – see Heb. 5:8-9
  - f. Paul used the following 3 analogies to contrast the difference between the miraculous age and the age of the completed written revelation of God’s Word
    - i. Prophecy in part and in full 9
    - ii. Childhood and adulthood 11
    - iii. Mirror and face-to-face 12
  - g. “In this life we have faith, hope, and love.” Philips translation