

I Corinthians 13:1-13 A Still More Excellent Way 6/1/2025

Ex. "Above all; fly the plane"- An attempt to overload me with details, so I would choose the thing that will keep us alive.

Text: I Cor. 13:1-13

The "love" chapter has a context. It runs counter to most of what the Corinthian were presently doing. They had all the gifts (1:7), but short on love.

"Agape" became a distinctively Christian word during the first century, and still is to this day. This is the word used in every part of I Cor. 13. Distinctively exemplified in Jesus Himself.

Ex. Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrated His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." A self-sacrificing love, with or without emotion. An unselfish desire to bring about the best for another.

Other Greek words for love used in the N.T. :

"Eros" in Greek is the word for intimacy between a man and a woman.

"Philo" in Greek is a mutual affection between friends, companionship, and shared interest.

"Storge" love between parents and children, or close family members.

Outline of I Cor. 13:1-13: *****

V. 1-3 Gifts without love is useless

V. 4-7 Love's character is a portrait of Christ

V. 8-13 Love's permanence

This chapter is not all that can be said about God's love, but each characteristic counters the actions and attitudes of the Corinthians at this stage of their walk.

We start at the wrong place if you read this chapter then say, "Oh, I wish I could be loved like that!" The point is to desire to "give out toward others" this kind of love.

I think the thing we know least about is love. It was the thing most crushed by the sin nature. Yet it is the thing we all feel like we are experts on, as if it were easy and automatic to do.

Ex. Youthful enthusiasm is deceptive. We "fall" in love, we say, and promise love forever then get divorced. "Well, they were not the person I thought they were!" So what is needed?

Discernment! That person was telling you who they were the whole time. Learning and living in

a vital relationship with Christ is the key to all other relationships! Because now you are at the source of love, God Himself through Christ!

Text:

13:1 "Noisy gong/ clanging cymbal" – used in the temples of Dionysus and Cybele. Gets attention but nothing real and lasting behind the noise.

13:2-3 Others may benefit, but it means nothing to God and no reward for you. Stoicism may make you sacrifice, but if it is not from the love for God it profits you nothing, even martyrdom.

Ex. Matthew 7: 22-29

13: 4 Phillips: "Slow to lose patience, it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive; it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance."

Moffit: ",,,love knows no jealousy, love makes no parade."

13:5 Moffit: Is not rude RSV. "love does not insist on its own way."

NEB: "not quick to take offense, love keeps no score of wrongs."

13:6 Moffit: "love is never glad when others go wrong."

Williams New Testament "always glad when truth prevails"

13:7 NEB: "there is nothing love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith."

13:8 NEB: "love will never come to an end"

Love never fails because it is not a thing separated from God; It is the dominate personality of God.

Ex. I John 4: 8 "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." No definite article here, meaning God in His essential nature is loving. You cannot say, "God is love; and love is God." (compare I John 3:4 in Greek- "and THE sin is THE lawlessness." So you could say, "Sin is lawlessness, and lawlessness is sin.")

13:11 A child may never know the real reason for their actions we asked them to do. They may do things because of fear of punishment, or simply to get a reward.

Ex. James Dobson's son Ryan, " Shake a leg!" The boy did the physical act, not understanding the metaphor.

Ex. My son said to me as an adult, "I stopped doing things for you because I had to ,,, a long time ago." That is when I knew he loved me,,, soul-deep.

13:12 Such an incredible need for you to be in a body of believers! Interaction with the body of Christ, seeing all the different gifts working, Christ working in different personalities, deep fellowship, results in a lot clearer vision to navigate through this life!

He already knows you completely. That is a great comfort!

Ex. I John 3: 1-3

13: 13 Faith and hope have their existence because of love. Love comes first! But **love** will be forever and experienced in a way we could not conceive of now. " But the greatest of these is THE love." I.E. , God Himself.

Next week you will face many things good and bad. You have to ask yourself," How can I show the love of God in this situation?" A lot of distractions, and many things claiming your attention. Remember; "FLY THE PLANE!" Remember; love is the most important experience in your life; don't get distracted by the noise of life.