

Love: The More Excellent Way Pt 2

1Corinthians 13

Read ch 13 *Whoever loves much, does much. Thomas a' Kempis 15th C*

C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves, To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung & possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies & little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket--safe, dark, motionless, airless--it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable...The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers...of love is Hell.

Paul lists 15 attributes of agape love—God's love in us by Holy Spirit

Greek word agape (love) a Christian term -- new word for a new life rarely used in Scripture. Agape is the revelation of God in Christ love. Not natural affection but supernatural fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Love requires the will rather than feeling—To love even those we dislike

Matt. 5:44-46 "I say to you, love your enemies, & pray for those who persecute you 45 In order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun rise on the evil & the good, & sends rain on the just & the unjust. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? Agape shows Jesus in & thru us.

First ten attributes of love taught last message now part 2 and conclusion

Rejoices w/ the truth—love hates a cover up, deception & lies. ***Deceitful are the kisses of an enemy but faithful are the wounds of a friend. Pr 27:6 Love it when guilty convicted--hate it when guilty get away w/ crimes (politicians).***

Love rejoices when the truth comes out but mourns when hidden or ignored.

Bears all things—bears up under the accusations, mistreatment offenses of others. To cover & conceal faults. ***Keeps out resentment as ship water-proof rain. 1 Pet 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.***

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Won't expose others for the sake of ridicule. Won't to tell the mistakes, faults, weaknesses of others. Sets out to mend the tear, repair the breach rather than draw attention to it. ***Love covers a multitude of sins.*** Caught adultery

Believes all things—Not gullible but faith God is in control. ***Jn 20:29 Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.'*** Complete trust. Believes the best in people & situations. ***Grk saying 'he who mistrusts most should be trusted least.'*** Easily burned because so trusting. We pigeonhole people w/ our opinions of them. If it's negative, it's hard for them to live up to anything different because they have become what we assumed them to be. ***Guy ask forgiveness of me.*** It doesn't mean we are gullible but not judgmental.

Hopes all things—Sees bright side of things, doesn't despair but perseveres. No one is hopeless & there are no hopeless situations-there is only people who have lost hope. ***Martin Luther 'Everything that is done in the world is done by hope'.***

American Heart Association reported a study in the Public Health Institute in Berkeley California, that people who experience high levels of despair have 20% greater rate of atherosclerosis-narrowing of the arteries than do optimistic people. This is the same risk factor seen in a pack a day smokers and non-smokers' Conclusion: despair is as bad for you as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. Hope is healthy it's a by-product of love.

Rom 8:24-25 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Endures all things—'***People fail much more often from lack of endurance than from lack of talent'*** ***Hupomenei***—to bear up under all mistreatment whether friend or woe w/o complaint. Trusting God's **providence** in it all. Helen Keller-sightless & voiceless '***We can do anything we want to do if we stick to in long enough'***

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Whatever man might mean for evil God will turn for good. *Endures*-adverse treatment by others-God sees & turns into advantage for us.

1 Pet 2:20 *For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.*

Love never fails--Classic Grk *actor booed off stage love still holds it's place*

Abraham Lincoln was treated w/ contempt by Edwin Stanton who called him 'a low cunning clown' & nicknamed him 'the original gorilla' and said of an African hunter 'why wander about in Africa trying to capture a gorilla when he could have one so easily at Springfield Illinois'. During his presidency Lincoln made Stanton his war minister because he was the best man for the job & treated Stanton w/ respect and dignity... When an assassin's bullet ended Lincoln's life in Ford's theater, his body was taken to a little room & laid out. Stanton stood, tears streaming down his face, peering at the lifeless body of his rival & said '*Here lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen.*' Love won out in the end.

S of S 8:7 *"Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers overflow it. If a man would give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned "* *The unconquerable nature of love.*

Time cannot decay it-trials are helpless against it--God's love-unending & unending

but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

God's love is permanent, undefiled will not fade away...gifts God gives are temporary, mans great feats of ingenuity, achievements, mans glory, his impressive accomplishments will be no more but God's love cannot be quenched or canceled--like our culture. His love is everlasting & undying

Perfect comes (neuter tense-not Christ but canon) Dean Alfred, Thayer Grk lexicon, AT Robertson—some of greatest Grk scholars = 2nd Coming-not as some say-complete canon of Scripture (Rev 10:4-seven thunders seal up. Dan 12:4-knowledge increased (not ceased).

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NT & Wycliffe Bible Commentary published by Moody Press--if so we now see more clearly than Apostle Paul 'Even the most self-satisfied & opinionated of theologians would hardly admit that. The coming of that which is perfect can only be a reference to the Lord's 2nd coming, which will mark the end of the exercise of prophecy, tongues, & knowledge. How then can we speak of these gifts as temporary?

11 When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things

A child is selfish even spoiled *pr 13:24 If you don't punish your child you don't love him. If you love him you will correct him.*

When they don't get their way--bad attitude--cry--center of universe. Sin nature to disobey--try get away w/ what they want--**marthmellows-lick cards**

Paul corrects childish attitudes of carnal believers--like children. Mature are to put away self-centered attitudes. Don't be childish in exercising gifts--love

12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.::

Corinth was famous for manufacture of mirrors--highly polished bronze or other metal--**obscure reflection**—window pane made of flattened animal horn only see shadows—dim image.

See God dimly--in creation--**heavens declare glory (a person is reflected in workmanship)**. We see life of Jesus thru His word--now His people's love.

Supremacy of love...**faith** w/o love is cold, **hope** w/o love is grim, love is the fire that kindles faith & is the light that make hope a certainty.

Faith makes real the Holy Spirit working thru the Church & every believer

Hope **Titus 2:13 'Looking for ...Greatest Love...Christ abiding presence in us**

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How do we put it into practice? **1**-put yourself in remembrance of these things for two months-*66 days for new behavior become automatic*
read/listen **1Cor 13**--**insert** your name-ask God to help in areas you fail. **2**-
practice the scripture-way you learn to ride bicycle or surf is practice. If fall
get up until you get it. **Insert** your name until bible becomes part of you. **3**-
it's a lifestyle so for you maintain the right direction and God will take care
of your perfection. Love never fails God expects nothing less of you than to
fail-until Christ formed in you-Heaven is where perfection is made complete

Greatest of all is love---Put Jesus name in---Put your name in

CH Spurgeon Oh, that you & I might get into the very heart of the Word of God, & get that Word into ourselves! As I have seen the silkworm eat into the leaf, & consume it, so ought we to do w/ the Word of the Lord—not crawl over its surface, but eat right into it till we have taken it into our inmost parts. It is idle merely to let the eye glance over the words, or to recollect the poetical expressions, or the historic facts; but it is blessed to eat into the very soul of the Bible until, at last, you come to talk in Scriptural language, & your very style is fashioned upon Scripture models & what is better still, your spirit is flavored with the words of the Lord. And the very essence of the Bible flow from you that they prick you anywhere—your blood is Bibling