

Without Love I am Nothing

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Text - 1Cor. 13:1-7

B. Gifts - 1Cor. 13:1-3

1. Gift of communication; the capacity to speak, not only all languages, but with the facility to do so eloquently and persuasively. The best of all public speakers is little more than a blaring trumpet or clanging metal who speaks without love
2. Gift of knowledge; the capacity to know the answer to every question, especially of spiritual things. Absolute knowledge of all of the revealed will of God does nothing for the one who shares it without love
3. Gift of strong will and conviction; the absolute certainty of the truth of God's will strongly driven by an indomitable will has not benefit for the one who serves God wholeheartedly without love.
4. Gift of unreserved generosity; the willingness to give every possession to those who need it most. To give away everything one has in the absence of love is a pointless exercise
5. Gift of life; to give one's life in a painful manner has no purpose or benefit for the one who does not do it for love.

C. Love validates righteous works

1. Jesus' death on the cross would mean nothing without His love
 - a. Gal. 2:20; 2Cor. 5:14
2. There are no works of righteousness that we can do that have any meaning with God when they are done without love for the object of the good deeds
 - a. In other words, if you have been living as a Christian for all of these years without loving God with all of your heart and loving others more than yourself, you have served the Lord in vain.
 - b. Matt. 22:36-40 - What does it mean that all of the law and prophets depend on those two principles?

D. How is my love to be manifested? - 1Cor. 13:4-7

1. Apparently, the Corinthians believed they could love others and at the same time maintain behaviors that are counterproductive to love.
2. There are seven things listed that manifest love; there are eight things listed that are incompatible with love
3. In the absence of any of the seven attributes of love, love is absent, too
4. In the presence of any of the eight things incompatible with love, love is not present

I. LOVE IS AND IS NOT

A. Love suffers long - Long-suffering is makrothumeo: "long-spirited, actively forbearing or patient; to bear with long, to patiently endure" (Strongs)

1. Not passively enduring, but active, purposeful forbearing

2. I am going to be patient with this in order to put into effect a plan for their wellbeing
- B. Love is kind - chresteuomai: “to show oneself useful, act benevolently; a verb denoting action” (Strongs) - Acts 9:39
- C. Love does not envy - zeloo: “to have warmth of feeling against; covet earnestly, desire, move with envy, be jealous over” (Strongs) - Gal. 5:24-26
- D. Love does not parade itself - perpereuomai: “to boast or vaunt itself; from the noun form of braggart” (Strongs) - Dan. 4:30-32
- E. Love is not puffed up - phusioo: “the primary sense of blowing or inflating, figuratively to make proud or haughty, to puff up” (Strongs) - 1Kings 1:5-6
- F. Love does not behave rudely - aschemoneo: “act unbecoming; behave oneself in an uncomely or unseemly manner” (Strongs)
1. Does not take advantage intentionally, or thoughtlessly - 2Thes. 3:6-10
- G. Love does not seek its own - zeteo heautou: “to plot against for oneself”
1. Without exception, self interest or looking out for myself and mine before others is condemned in the scriptures - Matt. 16:25
 2. What does Paul mean by this? - 1Cor. 10:24
- H. Love is not provoked - paroxuno: “to sharpen alongside, figuratively to exasperate, easily provoke, stir up” (Barnes)
1. One does not permit himself to get angry easily.
- I. Love thinks no evil - logizomai: “to take an inventory, estimate, conclude, account, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think on” (Strongs)
1. Evil - kakos: “worthless, depraved, injurious, bad, evil, harm, ill, wicked” (Strongs)
 2. In what universe would thinking evil of another be considered part of the mind of Christ? - Phil. 2:5
- J. Love does not rejoice in iniquity - chairo: “to be cheerful, calmly happy or well-off” (Strongs)
1. Iniquity - adikia: “the act of injustice; moral wrongfulness of character, life or act, unrighteousness, wrong” (Barnes)
 2. God treats the endorsement of sin and error the same as He does the practice of it - Rom. 1:32; 2John 9-11
- K. Love rejoices in the truth - John 14:6
1. Rejoices - chairo: “to be cheerful, calmly happy or well-off” (Strongs)
 2. The truth - aletheia; the definitive article indicates it is a specific truth
 3. Cheerful, calmly happy in the truth
 4. How do our children do when we are calm and cheerful? They reflect our state of mind. Likewise do those we love respond when our love is calm and cheerful in the truth
- L. Love bears all things - stego: “to roof over, figuratively to cover with silence, to endure patiently; to be sustained against assaults” - Isa. 53:7
1. “All things” - “All universal expressions of this kind demand to be thus limited. The meaning must be: As far as it can consistently or lawfully be done. There are offences which it is not proper or right for a man to conceal, or to suffer to pass unnoticed. Such are those where the laws of the land are violated, and a man is called

on to testify. But the phrase here refers to private matters; and indicates a disposition not to make public, or to avenge the faults committed by others. (Barnes)

M. Love believes all things - "In regard to the conduct of others, there is a disposition to put the best construction on it; to believe that they may be actuated by good motives, and that they intend no injury; and that there is a willingness to suppose, as far as can be, that what is done is done consistently with friendship, good feeling, and virtue. Love produces this, because it rejoices in the happiness and virtue of others, and will not believe the contrary without irrefutable evidence." (Barnes)

N. Love hopes all things - elpizo: "to expect or confide, have hope, trust"

(Strong's) Hopes that all will turn out well in reference to the conduct of others.

It is believing they will do well in spite of our interpretation of the evidence before us - Heb. 6:9, 10:39

O. Love endures all things - hupomeno: "to stay under, remain; figuratively, to undergo or bear trials; to have fortitude, to persevere, abide, endure, take patiently, suffer, tarry behind" (Strong's) - James 5:11

Conclusion:

A. Why?! Because it's not about me!

B. 1Cor. 13:13 - Yes, he meant it. Now we need to deal with it. If it comes down to a choice between accepting this or holding onto our semi-Pharisaic paradigms, then put aside the Phariseeism.

C. Otherwise, we are nothing to God.