

# Without Love I am Nothing

1Corinthians 13:1-7

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- “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

# Five Gifts

- Gift of communication
- Gift of knowledge
- Gift of strong will and conviction
- Gift of unreserved generosity
- Gift of life

# Love Validates Righteous Works

- Jesus' death on the cross would mean nothing without His love
  - Gal. 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
  - 2Cor. 5:14 - "For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died"

# Love Validates Righteous Works

- 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
- Matt. 22:36-40 - “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
- What does it mean that all of the law and prophets depend on those two principles?

# How Is Love Manifested?

- 1Cor. 13:4-7 - “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

# How Is Love Manifested?

- There are seven things listed that manifest love; there are eight things listed that are incompatible with love
  - In the absence of any of the seven attributes of love, love is absent, too
  - In the presence of any of the eight things incompatible with love, love is not present

# “Love Suffers Long”

- Long-suffering is makrothumeo: “long-spirited, actively forbearing or patient; to bear with long, to patiently endure” (Strong’s)
- Not passively enduring, but active, purposeful forbearing

# “Love Is Kind”

- Kind is chresteuomai: “to show oneself useful, act benevolently; a verb denoting action” (Strong’s)
- Acts 9:39 - “Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.”

# “Love Does Not Envy”

- Envy is zeloo: “to have warmth of feeling against; covet earnestly, desire, move with envy, be jealous over” (Strong's)
- Gal. 5:24-26 - “And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

# “Love Does Not Parade Itself”

- Parade is *perpereuomai*: “to boast or vaunt itself; from the noun form of *braggart*” (Strong's)
- Dan. 4:30-32 - “The king spoke, saying, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty? 31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! 32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”

# “Love Is Not Puffed Up”

- Puffed up is phusioo: “the primary sense of blowing or inflating, figuratively to make proud or haughty, to puff up” (Strong's)
- 1Kings 1:5-6 - “Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, Why have you done so?”

# “Love Does Not Behave Rudely”

- Behave rudely is aschemoneo: “act unbecoming; behave oneself in an uncomely or unseemly manner” (Strong's). Does not take advantage intentionally, or thoughtlessly
- 2Thes. 3:6-8, 10 - “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you... 10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

# “Love Does Not Seek Its Own”

- Seek its own is zeteo heautou: “to plot against for oneself”
- Without exception, self interest or looking out for myself before others is condemned in the scriptures
  - Matt. 16:25 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”
  - 1Cor. 10:24 - “Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.”

# “Love Is Not Provoked”

- Provoked is paroxuno: “to sharpen alongside, figuratively to exasperate, easily provoke, stir up” (Barnes). One does not permit himself to get angry easily.

# “Love Thinks No Evil”

- Thinks is *logizomai*: “to take an inventory, estimate, conclude, account, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think on” (Strong’s)
- Evil is *kakos*: “worthless, depraved, injurious, bad, evil, harm, ill, wicked” (Strong’s)
- In what universe would thinking evil of another be considered part of the mind of Christ? (Phil. 2:5)

# “Love Does Not Rejoice In Iniquity”

- Rejoice is chairo: “to be cheerful, calmly happy or well-off” (Strong's)
- Iniquity is adikia: “the act of injustice; moral wrongfulness of character, life or act, unrighteousness, wrong” (Barnes)

# “Love Does Not Rejoice In Iniquity”

- God treats the endorsement of sin and error the same as He does the practice of it
  - Rom. 1:32 - “Knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”
  - 2John 9-11 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”

# “Love Rejoices In The Truth”

- Rejoices is chairo: “to be cheerful, calmly happy or well-off” (Strong's)
- Truth - aletheia; the definitive article “the” indicates that it is a specific truth
  - John 14:6 - “Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- Means cheerful, calmly happy in the truth

# “Love Bears All Things”

- Bears is stego: “to roof over, figuratively to cover with silence, to endure patiently; to be sustained against assaults”
- Isa. 53:7 - “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”

# “Love Bears All Things”

- All things - “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... the phrase here refers to private matters; and indicates a disposition not to make public, or to avenge the faults committed by others.  
(Barnes)

# “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)

# “Love Hopes All Things”

- Hope is *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 - “But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.”
  - Heb. 10:39 - “But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

# “Love Endures All Things”

- Endures is 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 - “Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”

# Without Love I am Nothing

- Why? Because it's not about me!
- 1Cor. 13:13 - "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but *the greatest of these is love.*"
- 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.
- Otherwise, we are nothing to God.