

# THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY

## 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3

### I. THE "BIG PICTURE" TRANSITION

#### A. The Transitional Chapter (1 Corinthians \_\_\_\_\_ )

- 1) It is the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: these verses are so poetic that some believe that \_\_\_\_\_ did not write them
- 2) We cannot rightly use spiritual gifts if we do not understand the place of \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives

#### B. The Transitional Verse (1 Corinthians \_\_\_\_\_ )

- 1) The First Half of the Verse Looks Back to Chapter 12: Earnestly Desire the \_\_\_\_\_ Gifts
  - a) Why should we earnestly desire certain gifts? Paul wants us to value the \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual gifts
  - b) What are the best spiritual gifts? 12:28 says, "first apostles, second \_\_\_\_\_, third teachers."
- 2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the Verse Looks Forward to Chap.13: Be Even More Focused on Something Better

### II. THE "MORE EXCELLENT WAY"

#### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of All 3 Sections of Chapter 13

- 1) 13:1-3: The \_\_\_\_\_ of Love or the Value of Love
- 2) 13:4-7: The \_\_\_\_\_ of Love or the Working Definition of Love
- 3) 13:8-13: The \_\_\_\_\_ of Love or the Eternality of Love

#### B. The Meaning of "Love" in Chapter 13

- 1) *Eros* speaks of \_\_\_\_\_ love: it was God's idea and honorable within the boundaries of marriage
- 2) *Philia* is the love of \_\_\_\_\_: based on the pleasure one takes in another, it can motivate loyalty
- 3) *Storge* is natural affection toward \_\_\_\_\_ members: based on the fact that they are like me
- 4) *Agape* is used of \_\_\_\_\_ love: based on what is within me, it does what is best for those we love

### III. THE EXAGGERATED PLACE OF LOVE

#### A. The Worthlessness of Human \_\_\_\_\_ without Agape Love 13:1

- 1) "Tongues of men" = known human languages: the Corinthians highly valued public \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Paul exaggerates: If we could speak so eloquently that men exclaimed, "Tis the voice of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 3) When such eloquence does not spring from love, it is \_\_\_\_\_ than useless—a clanging cymbal

#### B. The Worthlessness of Supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ without Agape Love 13:2

- 1) A NT prophet reveals mysteries—knowledge known only to God that \_\_\_\_\_ can never figure out
- 2) The Corinthians placed great value on knowledge because of pagan religions—a source of \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) If we do not use Bible knowledge to build up others, we are \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the Lord

#### C. The Worthlessness of Practical \_\_\_\_\_ without Agape Love 13:2

- 1) Faith is practical—it is the means of God doing great things, or exaggerated, doing the \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) If we do the impossible, but we do not care about people while we do it, we are \_\_\_\_\_

#### D. The Worthlessness of Complete \_\_\_\_\_ without Agape Love 13:3

- 1) We can make the ultimate sacrifice, but if the sacrifice does not benefit \_\_\_\_\_, it is worthless
- 2) "It profits me nothing" speaks of making the sacrifice to profit myself to gain renown or \_\_\_\_\_