

I. Session 64: The Love of God Part 6: God' love and the whole Christian life

Recap of previous sessions:

- Session 59: The Love of God Part 1: God's Love for others in the Old Testament
- Session 60: The Love of God Part 2: God's Love for others in the New Testament
- Session 61: The Love of God Part 3: God's Love within the Trinity
- Session 62: The Love of God Part 4: God' love and the Doctrine of Adoption
- Session 63: The Love of God Part 5: God' love and the whole Christian life

Establishing the need: Knowing about God's love, do we practically love others?

Purpose: Today we want to answer three questions about godly love from **1 Corinthians 13**, so that we may truly exercise loving others today.

Why do you need to love others (v.1-3)?

What should your love for others look like (v.4-7)?

How do you love others when you don't feel like it (v.4-7)?

OBJECTION: We can object that the Bible's command can't be real: We think, the Bible doesn't know about my particular trouble and problem and my excuse of why I can not love the other person; **we can think that those in Biblical times have an easier time to love because the complexity of life today with difficult and selfish people; but is this true?**

Context: 1 Corinthians is a book about a church with messed up problems that the Apostle Paul had to write to them about it (Walk through **1 Corinthians**)

- I. Why do you need to love others (v.1-3)?
 - a. Point: We need to love others because if we do things without loving all you do will amount to nothing.
 - b. Passage: *"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body [²]to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing."*
 - c. Proof:
 - i. Note how three times Paul said "*but do not have love*" in **verses 1, 2 and 3.**
 - ii. Paul will observe how four good characteristics one should have means nothing without love.
 - iii. Note how Paul does it in a loving matter by using himself as an example.
 - iv. **What is the value of speaking well without love (v.1)?**

1. Note the focus on tongues: “*The tongues of men*” as the object is nuance, appearing before the verb “I speak.”
 - a. **Now, what is Tongues?** It is the continuous subject of **1 Corinthians 12-14**. Look at **1 Corinthians 12:10**: It is a language and specifically a supernatural gift of God to speak languages to others so as to evangelize them.
 - b. Imagine if Paul or someone else knew:
 - i. every languages (“*the tongues of men*”)
 1. **What is the most language someone knows?** “Ziad Fazah, born in Liberia, brought up in Beirut and now living in Brazil, might know the most language, with a total claim of 59 languages.”¹
 2. **How many languages are there?** There are from 6800 to 6900 distinct languages in the modern world
 - ii. even language of angels (“*and of angels*”)
 1. **2 Corinthians 12:4** suggests that heavenly beings speak a language that Paul and men cannot understand (Thomas, Digest, 69).
2. Without love tongues become:
 - a. “*a noisy gong*”—Refers to a bronze musical instrument often hung outside Greek temples (Thomas, Digest, 70).
 - b. “*or a clanging cymbal*”—Refers to a plate for worship of pagan gods (Thomas, Digest, 70).
- v. **What is the value of knowledge without love (v.2a)?**
 1. “*If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge... but do not have love, I am nothing*”
 2. Someone once said no one cares about how much you know until they know how much you care.
- vi. **What is the value of incredible faith without love (v.2b)?**
 1. “*and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing*”
- vii. **What is the value of sacrifice without love (v.3)?**
 1. Two incredible feats:
 - a. “*And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor,*”
 - b. “*and if I surrender my body [to] to be burned....*”
 2. Again, “*but do not have love, it profits me nothing.*”
- d. **Picture:** <Francis Chan’s Pots and Pan illustration> Point: Doing things without love is interfering rather than accomplishing the task.
- e. **Practice:**
 - i. **Will you apply what truths you learn this weekend by doing with the motivation driven by love?**

¹ <http://sciencefocus.com/qa/what-record-most-languages-spoken-one-person>.

- ii. Heart check yourself right now: You can always tell when someone is doing something without love: They will stop doing the right thing and be embittered.
- iii. Think about how to have loving action then do it: If you truly have love, you will even have more ideas of practical application of how to love someone, even more than what can be given by others in a sermon.

II. What should your love for others look like (v.4-7)?

- a. Point: The world today has a twisted idea of love, one that is confused with selfishness so we need to see what biblically love is.
- b. Passage: *"⁴ Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrongsuffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ [L]bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things"*
- c. Proof:
 - i. Positive attributes of love (v.4a)
 - 1. *"Patient"* in the Greek has more the idea of being patient with people rather than circumstances (Thomas, Digest, 74).
 - 2. *"Kind"* has the idea of one's willingness to be useful to others (Thomas, Digest, 75).
 - ii. Negative description of love (v.4a-6)
 - 1. *"Jealous"* has the idea of competing with one another.
 - 2. *"does not brag"* in the Greek captures the idea of outward boastfulness as the result of inward pride (Thomas, Digest, 75-76).
 - 3. *"is not arrogant"* describes the action of trying to get satisfaction by gaining the admiration of others (Thomas, Digest, 76).
 - 4. **Verse 5**, *"does not act unbecomingly"* has the idea to do with poor manners and behavior (Thomas, Digest, 76).
 - 5. *"it does not seek its own,"*
 - 6. *"is not provoked,"* in the Greek describes acting upon a hurt or a wrong in such a way that's unfortunate (Thomas, Digest, 76).
 - 7. *"does not take into account a wrongsuffered,"*
 - 8. **Verse 6**, *"does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;"*
 - a. That is it does not celebrate when others have done wrong.
 - b. **What is truth mean here?** In terms of the context, it is in contrast to *"unrighteousness,"* and therefore cannot mean just the truth about what is wrong; rather it seems to suggests the truth of the Gospel.
 - 9. **Verse 7**-Chiasm (Thomas, Digest, 78)

bbears all things, believes all things,
 hopes all things, endures all things.

“bbears all things...endures all things.”

First part describes present trial due to ingratitude of one’s own side.

Last part describes putting up with the bad things from one’s enemies.

“believes all things, hopes all things”

First part describes good intentions in the present.

Last part describes future hope of good things working out

d. Practice:

- i. **What of these things do you lack?** Pray to God to have them and also to work on it.
- ii. Further study this passage some more in the future.

III. How do you love others when you don’t feel like it (v.4-7)?

a. Point: We can agree that what loves looks like is beautiful; even non-Christians can do that; **but the problem the world has is how do we love when we don’t feel like it?** This is where what the Bible says about Jesus is important.

b. Proof:

- i. Premise 1: We are people driven by other’s example; more things in life are caught rather than taught.
- ii. Premise 2: Jesus is our Great Example.
- iii. Therefore: We ought to be like Jesus.

c. Note the Passage describes Jesus if we substitute “love” with Jesus: “⁴ *Jesus is patient, Jesus is kind and Jesus is not jealous; Jesus does not brag and Jesus is not arrogant,* ⁵ *Jesus does not act unbecomingly; Jesus does not seek His own, Jesus is not provoked, Jesus does not take into account a wrongsuffered,* ⁶ *Jesus does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but Jesus rejoices with the truth;* ⁷ b *bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”*

d. Practice:

- i. Dig deeply in the Bible to find Jesus and meditate on Him. Read your Bible constantly and read the Bible not just for information but to LOVE HIM!

e. Picture: <Simon Chan loss of a friend>