

**Some portions of the Word of God are meant to be considered often, committed to memory so as to be written upon our hearts!**

1 Corinthians 13 is one of those portions of the Holy Scripture! In it is a description of the love of God “Personified” in the soul of a child of the Kingdom of Christ.

We are currently going through the Beatitudes on Sunday evenings; the Beatitudes are spiritual virtues and graces that should exist in the heart and life of NOT ONLY exceptional Christians, but in the life of EVERY Christian!

Here in 1 Corinthians is a description of how the love of God ought to look in each of us; in the life of EVERY Christian.

*John 13:34-35, Leviticus 19:18, 34, Romans 12:9-10, 13:8-10*

Let the Words of Christ sink down in your ears and hearts; “BY THIS LOVE” shall all men know that ye are my disciples!

**In context, 1 Corinthians 13 springs forth from what Paul wrote to the Corinthians in Chapter 12; specifically, to those in the church who esteemed/desired certain gifts from the Spirit of God.**

Paul wanted to get them off of glorying in certain gifts, and turn their hearts toward that which made the gift, and the use of it acceptable in the sight of God, who gave the gift. What did Paul teach in Chapter 13?

Forget the gift, if it is not practiced out of true love for Christ and to bring honor and glory to Him then it is a worthless gift and a worthless ability. The Corinthian Church was full of those that possessed knowledge and gifts. *1 Corinthians 1:4-7*

**(V1-3): Paul 1<sup>st</sup> teaches us that the gift of eloquent speaking, or the ability to teach and preach the Word is in and of itself meaningless if it is not accompanied and/or expressed from a heart of charity or love for God in the heart of the speaker.**

Though I utter words or preach the truth of the gospel; if I have not a love for God, and a love for those that I am preaching to, I am nothing more than a “loud and empty noise.” (Useless noise).

There is more than one way to speak the truth; we can be sinful with the truth; or even contentious, proud, vindictive, & hurtful; or we can speak the truth in love!

*Ephesians 4:15*

**And then, (V2): Though I have the gift of prophecy, and I understand all of the mysteries of the scripture; I possess a complete knowledge of the truth, and on top of all of that, I have the faith to remove mountains. (That is, momentous obstacles to my faith).**

This is NOT a bad place for you or I to be; that is, to have a good understanding and knowledge of the mysteries of God; but to possess and be gifted with these spiritual treasures without possessing Charity or the Love of Christ is to be full of knowledge about God but at the same time destitute of genuinely KNOWING God!

*1 Corinthians 8:1: “Knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies”, 1 John 4:7-8*

**And then, I could give abundantly of my own goods to feed the poor and needy in the world, but if, in all my alms and good deeds I have done them without True Love which comes from God or in love to God it all profits me nothing.**

God does not and will not honor it, for it was not done to magnify and honor Him who is the greatest and most benevolent of Giver’s to the needy.

*2 Corinthians 8:3-5*

This little section can be summed up in this statement; speaking, knowing, and doing, or possessing the most glorious gifts without true love which comes from God is to be nothing and of no use to God. I don’t want that for me, or any of you!

*What does Charity or love that comes from Christ look like in a human life?*

Think about this in regard to “Charity” or this exceptional love of Christ that

THIS LOVE should be most visibly seen ~ practiced in our lives when we are confronted and tested by the most extreme and radically opposite behaviors that exist in the world; the love of Christ in us should come out of our lives when it is met with hatred, strife, selfishness, contention, pride, and lying.

It’s easy to love when we are loved back; but now love those that hate you! Or love those that hate your Lord!

**Charity Suffereth Long:** or Charity is Longsuffering, Long-Spirited, or Forbearing. Those that possess THIS LOVE; this 4<sup>th</sup> fruit of the Spirit SHOULD BE longsuffering.

It is the 4<sup>th</sup> fruit of the Spirit of God! *Ephesians 4:1-2, Colossians 3:12-14*

**Charity is Kind:** or gracious. You know what means to be gracious. Every one of us should be gracious and kind. *Luke 6:35-36, Proverbs 31:26*

**Charity envieth not:** The Pharisees’ envy and jealousy of Christ led to their hatred of Him. Those who possess the love of Christ should not and must not allow the spirit of envy to rise up in their spirits; it is one of the rottenest and most poisonous of all behaviors.

Envy and the love of Christ cannot coexist in the same spirit! *Titus 3:1-3 ~ (Were!)*

**Vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up:** A braggart or boaster; one swollen with self and pride. One who possesses the love of Christ does not behave this way.

*Psalms 10:3-4, 1 Corinthians 8:1*

**Does not behave itself unseemly:** To behave “unseemly” is to behave “rudely”, which is very unbecoming, and NOT a representation of the Person Christ. Christian’s are NOT rude persons, but they are, as previously said, kind & gracious in all settings and situations.

**Seeketh not her own:** Those who possess the love of Christ within will not be self-centered and selfish. *Romans 15:1-4, 1 John 3:16-17*

**Is not easily provoked;** I think of James 1:19-20: “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

**I really love this attribute of Charity! “Thinketh no evil:”** True love in our hearts will restrain us from giving an ill opinion of someone else; but more than that, as our verse teaches us, Charity (love to Christ within) will stop us from even “THINKING” evil thoughts concerning others. *Proverbs 11:13: “He that is of a faithful spirit will conceal a matter.”*

Lastly, 1 Corinthians 13:6: **“Rejoiceth NOT in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth”**

Romans 12:9

Christian, THIS love of Christ should be conspicuous in every one of us!