

## "THE UNDERSTANDING OF LOVE WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

- **Observations about 1 Corinthians 13:**

- 1) The context of 1 Corinthians 12-14 is the proper exercise of \_\_\_\_\_ in the local church. These 3 chapters are corrective in nature in light of the carnal Corinthian Christians \_\_\_\_\_ of them.
- 2) The key word of chapter 13 is \_\_\_\_\_ (agape) which is mentioned explicitly \_\_\_\_ times and referred to implicitly \_\_\_\_\_ more times.
- 3) The contrast in this chapter is between “love” which is \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual gifts which are \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) “Love” is the \_\_\_\_\_ referred to in 1 Corinthians 12:31. (“*But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way*”) which is to be diligently \_\_\_\_\_. (14:1) *Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.*
- 5) The apostle Paul uses \_\_\_\_\_ as the hypothetical illustration in vs.1-3 of a believer who does \_\_\_\_\_ have love in his service and sacrifice.
- 6) By praising and esteeming the value and virtue of “love” in the Christian life, Paul is also indicting these carnal believers of their own \_\_\_\_\_ of love. (13:4-6)
- 7) 1 Corinthians 13 breaks down into \_\_\_\_ parts or paragraphs: 13:1-3; 13:4-7; 13:8-13.

### A. The MEANING of “AGAPE LOVE”.

#### 1. The 4 Greek words for “love” are ...

- a. “eros” - this refers to a \_\_\_\_\_, and was not employed in the NT, but was illustrated in the context of marriage in the OT book of the Song of Solomon.
- b. “storge” - this refers to a \_\_\_\_\_ one has toward another, such as the love of parents toward a child. This is sometimes used with the negation in the NT. (Rom.1:31; 2 Tim.3:3)
- c. “philia /phileo ” – this refers to a \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love which comes from a rapport or compatibility and reciprocation with someone. This kind of love should also be true in a marriage, though it is not limited to marriage. ( Romans 12:9-10; Titus 2:4)
- d. “agape / agapao” – this is used of a strong, loyal \_\_\_\_\_ to someone or something – whether positively or negatively (1 John 2:15; 2 Timothy 4:10). This is the term used in the Bible to set forth \_\_\_\_\_ love toward mankind (John 3:16), and the love that \_\_\_\_\_ are to express to one another. (John 13:34-35)

## 2. Agape love ...

- a. Is an \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (1 Jn. 4:7- 8)
- b. Is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (1 John 4:9)
- c. Is \_\_\_\_\_. (1 John 4:10)
- d. Is expressed in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. (1 John 4:10; Rom.5:6-8)
- e. Is the primary \_\_\_\_\_ for believers to now live for Jesus Christ. (2 Cor.5:14-15)
- f. Is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (Deut.33:3; John 3:16; 1 John 3:16-18)
- g. \_\_\_\_\_, as it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the yielded believer's life. (Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22-23)
  - Agape love (in a Christian context) is in reference to the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ what is best for \_\_\_\_\_ in light of eternity no matter what it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - What does this require?
  - What deters this?

## B. The MISCONCEPTIONS about "AGAPE LOVE".

1. It is not a \_\_\_\_\_, but a \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 5:44)
2. It is \_\_\_\_\_, and never forced. (active voice)
3. It is not \_\_\_\_\_, but about a true love for others. (Gal. 5:13-16, 22-23)
4. It does not lead to \_\_\_\_\_, nor a justification for one's \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor.13:6)
5. It does not lead to \_\_\_\_\_ compromise for the sake of a good cause, and may actually lead to a doctrinal \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor.13:6; Gal.1:6-10; Rom.16:17)
6. It is not about \_\_\_\_\_, but about \_\_\_\_\_ and benefiting \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 22:27-29; 1 Cor.13:4-5)
7. It is not inconsistent with an appropriate \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim.4:2), \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess.5:14), \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor.5; Titus 3:10), etc.
8. It is not a \_\_\_\_\_ issue in spirituality, but is of great \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor.13:1-3)
  - But where does your response to agape love all begin? (Ephesians 2:1-9)