

The Greatest Pursuit

1 Corinthians 13

11/27/16

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. And 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. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong against it, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth. All things are pure for it, all things are clean, but love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away, if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when face to face, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

²⁰ But now there are many members, but one body.

²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

²² On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

²³ and those *members* of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly *members come to* have more abundant seemliness,

²⁴ whereas our seemly *members* have no need *of it*. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked,

²⁵ that there should be no division in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.

²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.

²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they?

³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

The Necessity of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1 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 And 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 deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

The Life Style of Love

⁴Love is patient,

love is kind,

and is not jealous;

love does not brag

and is not arrogant,

⁵does not act unbecomingly;

it does not seek its own,

is not provoked,

does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

⁶does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

⁷bears all things,

believes all things,

hopes all things,

endures all things.

The Superiority of Love

⁸ Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away.

⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part;

¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.

¹³ But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

All Scripture is from the NASV