



What is Love?

1 Corinthians 13

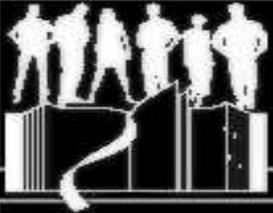
The Letter So Far...

- Paul has a history with the Corinthians
 - Spent 18 months in the city despite persecution
 - Wrote at least 4 letters to the church
 - Constantly correcting and reproofing
- In this book Paul has already dealt with:
 - Issues of Division, Pride, and Lawsuits among believers
 - Sexual Immorality, Issues with Idolatry, Communion services
 - Spiritual gifts and Unity in the body of Christ



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 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 to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.



1 Corinthians 13

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 wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 love never fails...

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

Without Love...

- The Big gifts of God—those worthy of bragging over
- Speaking in Tongues, Prophecy, Knowledge, Faith that removes mountains, Selfless giving to the point of poverty, Surrender of one's life to be burned at the stake
- All Worthy Gifts of God—all of them worth seeking!
- Gifts from God does not mean holiness, or even God's favor!
- Without love: at best you are annoying and at worst...
- Love tempers and directs how we should apply our gifts

Love is Patient

- “Sophie, where is my sermon?”
- *Makrothumodin*- literally long in becoming wrathful
 - The first 2 times we see this is in the parable of the man pleading for patience to repay
 - The master had the “right be angry”
- What if we measured our love for others by the length of the fuse we have for them?
- “There never was an angry man who thought his anger unjust” St. Francis De Sales
- God is Patient with us! Ought we not reflect his patience?

Love is Kind and not Jealous

- Kindness
 - Having or displaying a gentle nature and a desire to help others
 - Wanting and liking to do good things and to bring happiness to others
 - Putting others before yourself
 - Discipline and correction
- Not Jealous
 - Not to be confused with the Jealousy of God
 - Envious, Resentful, Possessive or Controlling

Love Does not Brag and is Not Arrogant

- To promote oneself
 - Often to at the expense of others
 - Braggarts are insecure!
- Love promotes others even at its own expense
 - It can afford to do so!
 - It wants to do so!
 - Christ's example is clear!

God's Love

- We mess things up so often!
 - He is exceedingly patient
 - He is kind and courteous and does not force us to choose Him
 - He does not brag and is not arrogant
- His love for us
 - Teaches us what love is!
 - How we ought to love is how he has loved us