

Love

1st Corinthians 13:1-13

Love is patient, love is kind
No eyes of envy, true love is blind
Love is humble, it knows no pride
No selfish motive hidden inside
Love is gentle, makes no demands
Despite all wrong, true love still stands
Love is holy, love is pure
It lasts forever, it will endure

[Chorus:]

Love knows when to let go
Love knows when to say no
Love grows in the light of the Son
And love shows the world that the Son of Love has come

Love is loyal, believes the best
It loves the truth, love stands the test
Love is God sent in His Son
Love forgives all we have done

[Repeat Chorus]

In this world where hatred seems to grow
True love goes against the flow
And becomes so hard to show
In this world where push turns to shove
We have strength to rise above
Through the power of His love
Lord, we need to know the power of Your love

[Repeat Chorus]

[Repeat Chorus]

This song is based on 1st Corinthians Chapter 13. In fact it is pretty much 1st Corinthians Chapter 13:4-7 put into a song. For this bible study we are going to start by studying that chapter.

1st Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing

Think about what Paul is saying here. He said if he speaks in the languages of men or angels and does not have love he is nothing more than a resounding gong or a changing cymbal. That is like saying he would be no better than two pieces of metal being banged together. He said if he was the smartest person to ever exist or if he had the faith to move mountains without love he would be nothing. He said if he gave everything he ever had away even his body without love he would gain nothing. This goes back to one of our points from Salvation Part 1 lesson. That point was Works show our gratitude for salvation they don't offer payment for it. I think the bottom line of what Paul is saying here is this. No matter what gift God has given us to minister to others; whether it is teaching, helping the poor or whatever, if we don't do it out of love it is of no value.

Without love nothing we do is pleasing to God.

1st Corinthians 13:4-7(8) (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

This is Paul's description of what love is. This goes far beyond what any of us would have ever thought it was. How easy is it to do a good deed like hold a door for an old lady, give money to the poor or donate to a charity then pat yourself on the back and feel proud for what you just did? Yet we look at Paul's definition it says love is not proud. How easy is it to look at what someone else has done and be envious? Yet Paul says love does not envy. How easy is it to get mad at someone and remind them of every bad thing they have ever done to you? Yet Paul says love is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. If anything these verses show us just how limited our ability to love is apart from God.

Love helps others and expects nothing in return.

1st Corinthians 13:(8)-13 (NIV)

But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

In this passage Paul is giving us a glimpse of what it will be like when Jesus returns. The NIV translates it completeness. Most literal translations translate it “that which is perfect” or “the perfect”. What Paul is saying here is that when Jesus returns all the gifts of the church will be done away with. Think about it why would we need prophecy? We will be in God’s presence. Why would we need tongues? Carrying the Gospel to all nations will be complete. Does anyone even know what “tongues” means? Read **Acts 2:1-12 (NIV)**. When he talks of being a child he is saying the church is as a child. We need these things now because we are not yet grown. Then he speaks of becoming a man. That is the church when it comes into God’s presence. Then the thing we have now will be put behind us because they are no longer needed because we will have a better way. He says for now we see only a reflection in a mirror. First of all you need to understand that mirrors back then were not as good as they are today. They were nothing more than polished pieces of metal. You could see a reflection but not nearly the detail you would get looking directly at someone. What he is saying is that all our gifts, all our understanding is like only a dim reflection of the reality of God. But one day we will stand face to face with God and we will no longer need these gifts we currently use in the church. But then notice what he says. Even then, when we stand face to face with God these three things will remain: faith, hope and love. Then notice what he says. The greatest of these three is love. He is saying of all the things the Church was put here to do, love is the greatest of all.

When all else passes away love will be the greatest of all that remains.

That within itself is powerful. Now we are going to look at a few more verses that I think are important verses in the bible about love.

John 3:16 (KJV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 15:12-17 (NIV)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

John 3:14-16 (NIV)

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Matthew 22: 34-40 (NASB)

*But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.**" "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, '**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."*

After the bible study was over Jennifer brought this passage to my attention and I thought it worthy of mention here. I have included the verse from the NASB. The KJV adds a fifth command "Thou shall not bear false witness." This is not part of the original Greek.

Romans 13:8-10 (NASB)

*Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, "**YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,**" and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**" Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*