

## Is Love All You Need?

OCTOBER 29, 2023

## WORSHIP

Jesus  
Great Things  
Amazing Grace

## WELCOME

What keeps you going in life during the most challenging moments in relationships and circumstances?

## WORD

## 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

In the previous message, Dr. Keith Schubert dived deep into the theology behind spiritual gifts - gifts vs talents, the hierarchy of gifts, and focusing on the Giver and what He wants us to do with the gifts He blessed all Christians with upon salvation. As we continue this study, Paul focuses on our attitude as Christians during this process. of discovering and utilising the spiritual gifts chosen for us by the Holy Spirit - the most vital ingredient being love. 1 Corinthians 13 clearly illustrates how having gifts, without having love, produces nothing. In contrast, what we may think as the simplest of gifts, when exercised with the love of God, produces lasting value for His kingdom. This is why it is essential that our gifts be used with love, or not at all.

**Love is SUPERIOR to Gifts**

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul spends time addressing one of the pressure points causing discord within the church in Corinth - that is, their use of and attitude towards their spiritual gifts. From verses 1 -7, Paul makes it plain that whatever spiritual gift it maybe, tongues or prophesying or charity - even faith! - without love, these gifts are nothing but noisy gongs and clanging cymbals, profiting believers nothing.

**Love BENEFITS Others**

The gifts given to all believers upon salvation are not to be used for personal gain. They are specifically designed and assigned by the Holy Spirit to be used for the benefit of those outside ourselves. And the only way these gifts will effectively benefit others is with love. The relational aspects of love are described in verses 4 -7 (a favourite passage particularly in celebrations of marriage), with it having both passive and active benefits (passively patient, actively kind). In the same set of verses, Paul also writes how love does not cause others harm in seven specific ways: it does not envy, does not boast, is not arrogant, does not behave improperly, isn't selfish nor irritable, and finally, is not unforgiving. As we think about the position of Christians and the church today as salt and light to this broken world - more than having engaging speakers, good music, or an impressive facility - we should strive to embrace love as the most important gift we can share with all people we encounter, expressing it in a way that pleases God.

**Love OUTLASTS Gifts**

Spiritual Gifts come from God, but they are by no means perfect. These are only partial glimpses of a bigger picture, a murky reflection of God's ultimate plan and purpose for us. All these gifts are temporary - it is only love that is permanent, as said in 1 Corinthians 13 : 8 - "Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away

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WEEKLY  
PRAYER POINTS**I. Thanksgiving**

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

**II. Country and the World**

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort, salvation for Israel, wisdom for their leaders in government, military and their soldiers as they defend themselves against terrorists' attacks. Rescue of the Israelites taken as hostages.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; conflict in African, East Asian and Middle East countries to stop.

**III. Church**

- CCFers would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, dleaders, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

**IV. CCF Facilities**

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

**V. Personal Concerns**

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

## MEMORY VERSE

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:13**

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

## WORD

with.” Maturity will replace childish things, and these incomplete gifts will make way for the completed and perfect work of God. However “faith, hope, and love remain, the greatest of this is love”. (v. 13). This reiterates the superior position of love over all spiritual gifts, and proves its lasting effects in and for the Kingdom of God.

The question for God's people today is this: how are we at loving others (as individuals and as a church)? May we always remember the importance of a loving attitude as we embrace the use of our gifts in benefiting others for the glory of God.

## Discussion Questions

1. What is your spiritual gift? What gift do you think others in your group possess?
2. How would you suggest others determine what their spiritual gift is?
3. How do I know others see me as a person who loves? Does my CCF friends think I am loving?
4. In the descriptions of love in chapter 13, what is one or two areas I need to work on to be more loving?