

1. Three Goals

a. Read chapters 12-14

- i. **1 Timothy 4:13 (ESV)** ¹³ *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.*
- ii. Today:
 - (1) focus on the public reading of Scripture as an overview to a new topic Paul responds to in 1 Corinthians
 - (2) Set chas 12-14 in context
 - (3) Introduce three headings under which we will pursue God's truth for us in this portion of His word

b. Set chapters 12-14 in context with chapters 8-11

- i. **Thematic summary of 8-14: Love acts for the glory of God and spiritual benefit of others, always.**
- ii. Chapter summary
 - (1) 8 - Love treasures the "least of these" and protects their tender spirits by self-sacrifice
 - (2) 9 - Love endures anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ
 - (3) 10 - Love lives for the glory of God in every detail of life
 - (4) 11 - Love reveals the glory of God by retaining the creation order of God, especially in worship
 - (5) 12 - Love fosters equal concern for all parts of the body infused with the Holy Spirit
 - (6) 13 - Love never fails
 - (7) 14 - Love maintains order in worship so that non-believers may be saved and believers encouraged and the church edified.
- iii. "As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
 - (1) Love is more than
 - (a) More than "not hating."
 - (b) More than neutral emotion.
 - (c) More than indifferent tolerance
 - (2) **Love acts for the glory of God and the spiritual benefit of others, always.**

c. Set out three headings under which we will consider chas 12-14

- i. In chs 12 -1 4 Paul describes how abilities for ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit and spread throughout the church are used in love for the glory of God and the spiritual benefit of believers and non-believers who encounter the church.
- ii. **Three Conditions Relative to Love and Spiritual Gifts**
 - (1) **The Promise of Spiritual Gifts (12:1-31)**
 - (a) The Holy Spirit makes spiritual gifts desirable
 - (b) Not the presence gift or the greatness of the gift that makes

a spiritual gift desirable, but the presence of God the Holy Spirit personally at work in the believer and in the church that makes spiritual gifts desirable

(2) **The Priority of Spiritual Gifts (12:31 - 14:1)**

- (a) Pursue love and love will exalt the spiritual gifts necessary to proclaim the gospel and build up the church
- (b) The priority among spiritual gifts is not love for self but love for others.

(3) **The Practice of Spiritual Gifts (14:2 - 40)**

- (a) Love for God the Holy Spirit makes spiritual gifts desirable
- (b) Love makes the spiritual gift of prophecy the most desirable
- (c) Love for the church keeps spiritual gifts desirable
 - (i) Love seeks the edification of the church through the encouragement of believers
 - (ii) Love seeks the salvation of non-believers through the clear, understandable communication of the gospel

2. Summary

a. The heart of the Corinthian message is love released from the heart through the Holy Spirit into the lives of others.

- i. Love as the parameter for life personal life activities
- ii. Love as the motive for public, relational activities
- iii. Love as the substance of corporate church activities

b. The love of God in Christ actuated in every believer through the working of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God, the good of the church, and the salvation of the world