

Love and the Gifts (Part 3)

1 Cor 13:1-13

I. Mother's Day, Weddings, Love, and 1 Corinthians 13

A. The Questions We are Pursuing

1. Seven Questions for 1 Corinthians 12-14
 - a. What is a spiritual gift?
 - b. Why tell us there are varieties of gifts?
 - c. What does “manifestation of the Spirit” mean?
 - d. What is the common good God accomplishes with spiritual gifts?
 - e. What gifts has God appointed here at Cornerstone?
 - f. What role does love play in spiritual gifts?
 - g. What does edification of the church mean and why is it the primary goal of spiritual gifts?
2. Four Questions to Answer the Sixth Question
 - a. What does Paul mean when he writes “earnestly desire the higher gifts?”
 - b. What does love have to do with higher gifts?
 - c. What does any of this have to do with us?
 - d. What are some ways we can put this higher gift into practice?

B. Mother's Day, Weddings, Love, and 1 Corinthians 13

1. 1 Cor 13 seems appropriate on this day dedicated to those who best model love according to our culture
2. Paul is not simply taking a break to paint a pretty picture for the Corinthians
3. Paul’s teaching on love is more corrective than instructive
 - a. They already know what they should be
 - b. But they consistently miss the mark in attitude and practice
 - c. Paul takes them to the heart of what it means in everyday life to be a believer and follower of Jesus

C. A Follower of Jesus: Corinth or Cornerstone, the message is the same:

1. A gospel driven, faith living, Jesus loving, God honoring, Spirit-baptized and Spirit-filled follower of Jesus MUST be one who loves above all else.
2. **When Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another, he was not just giving them a principle to believe, or an attitude to possess, but a behavior to practice and a person to be!**
3. True disciples of Jesus love!

II. The relationship of love and spiritual gifts

A. The absence of love negates the presence of gifts 13:1-3

1. Tongues but no love? Nothing
2. Prophecy but not love? Nothing
3. Knowledge but not love? Nothing
4. Faith but not love? Nothing
5. Generosity but not love? Nothing

B. Love possesses quantifiable measurements 13:4-8a

1. Stated Positively - because that's what the Corinthians aren't and need to be
 - a. Patient
 - b. Kind
2. Stated negatively because this is what the Corinthians are and shouldn't be
 - a. Does not envy or boast
 - b. Not arrogant or rude
 - c. Is not irritable or resentful (keeps no record of wrongs)
 - (1) As long as you hold a grudge you do not love
 - (2) As long as you do not love you live in disobedience
 - (3) As long as you live in disobedience you deny Christ and forestall God's blessing in your life
 - d. Does not rejoice at wrongdoing (see ch.7) but rejoices in the truth
3. God back to what the Corinthians should do but don't
 - a. Love bears all things (doesn't take the neighbor to court)
 - b. Love believes all things
 - c. Love hopes all things
 - d. Love endures all things

C. Love characterizes the mature 13:8b-12

1. When I became a man, I put away childish things.
2. Some of us need to put away childish things
 - a. Fear
 - b. Jealousy
 - c. Hatred
3. Repent, Confess, Believe, Practice

D. Love lasts. 13:13

1. Love moves in and stays. (Abides)
2. Abiding is not without its challenges but it does not accept defeat.
 - a. **Revelation 2:7 (ESV)** *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'*
 - b. **Revelation 2:11 (ESV)** *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'*
 - c. **Revelation 2:17 (ESV)** *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'*
 - d. **Revelation 2:26-27 (ESV)** ²⁶ *The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.*
 - e. **Revelation 3:5 (ESV)** *The one who conquers will be clothed thus*

in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

- f. **Revelation 3:12 (ESV)** *The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.*
- g. **Revelation 3:21 (ESV)** *The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.*

III. How do we get a love like this?

A. Good News: No self-derivation required

- 1. John 15:9
- 2. Phil 1:9-11

B. What does this mean?

- 1. The love of which we speak comes from Christ by the Spirit through a surrendered, committed covenant relationship characterized by faith and obedience.
- 2. Divine expectation is not merely that love will be present in the church but that love will abound in and through the church
- 3. Love compels the Christian to use their spiritual gifts for the benefit of the members and mission of the local church