

1 Corinthians 13

Love as Death

Let's frame this discussion with a few key points.

The Corinthian church was seeing many manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and was really excited. People were speaking in tongues, performing miracles, and prophesying.

In verses 1 through 3 Paul lists off some of the works occurring- speaking in tongues, prophecy, understanding, knowledge, faith, and asepticism. It's like being in a loud restaurant and saying that you can't hear yourself think. I think this is what Paul is equating tongues to, when not used in love. Sound that is noisy, and present, but not helping the conversation or building up the church. This is a great gift, and should not be despised; but Paul's logic is that any action that isn't done in love is nothing (look at verse 2).

The Christian faith isn't about what you can offer; it's about how Jesus offered himself. It doesn't matter if God's given you a cool gift that is newsworthy in the eyes of your peers. In Galatians 5:6 Paul says that the only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love. Jacob really explained this so well last week! The gifts of the Spirit are all meant to work in concert with one another to exalt Jesus & build up the church.

Okay, here is a free-bee on this topic, before we keep moving: the gifts of the spirit are governed by the fruit of the Spirit. What I mean is that if the gift is from God's Holy Spirit, it will be exercised lovingly, joyfully, peacefully, showing patience, exhibiting kindness, fostering goodness,

encouraging faithfulness, always with gentleness, and maintaining self-control.

Love is less about what we do and more about why we do it. The gifts of the Spirit should be motivated by a genuine love for Christ.

Verses 4-7 are critical, and what I really want to focus in on today:

Faith working through LOVE is everything for the Christian. The Christian must ask- is this faith, which leads me to love, real? Do I believe I should seek Godliness? Do I believe being patient, kind, humble- is the right thing?

This passage is about Jesus. Jesus is patient. Look at Jesus and Peter's relationship in John 21:15-19. Peter denied Jesus 3 times, but Jesus still used him greatly. The apostles continue to be puzzled, confused and at points doubting Jesus→ yet, he never sends them away. Jesus accepts us, knowing our issues and propensities to sin; he lovingly and patiently walks with us through our growth.

Jesus is patiently waiting to collect his Bride. He is actively pursuing and helping her grow in holiness→ the Christian's patience should minister to others. Our patience should reflect God. Nehemiah 9:17B --- "...but You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not forsake them." Jesus is kind. Jesus is not arrogant, or self-seeking. Philippians 2:1-11 Jesus is not irritable or resentful. The Greek word they are all attempting to translate literally means "to stir to anger" by being provoked – the kind of reaction

a horse might have when a rider digs his spurs into the horse's ribs. It describes a state of allowing ourselves to become incensed or exasperated with others because of something they said or did. Probably the best translation that I came across is this: "Love does not allow itself to be provoked." We don't allow others to "get under our skin," or to "get our goat." Jesus always rejoices in truth. John 14:6. Jesus bore all things and endures all things.

Matthew 26:53-54 Romans 5:8