

What Matters Most

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1 Corinthians 13

Emphasis – Attitude – Endurance

Open with C.T. Studd's; "Only One Life"

It's the familiar things within our homes that are collecting the most dust

Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 13

Unless taken care of, given enough time, a knife will grow dull.

Read 1 Corinthians 13

The hesitation not to teach this passage has been immense.

- If it is such an elementary or simple passage, why haven't I perfected it yet?
- If it is of a secondary importance, why is it the distinguishing mark of someone who knows Jesus?

Identified By:

John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Abide In: John 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."

Chase after/Pursue/go for the gold:

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, & desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy

The Secret Ingredient: 1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done with love.

When grandma makes something... the secret ingredient is love.

I don't come as one who has mastered the topic but as one who has seen and been the recipient of it.

Ooooo, how romantic... not exactly

Romance will never fill the void in your life nor will it sustain a relationship of any kind.

"The world, in some regards, is romance divine but we, the church, are to be God driven."

Distinction: In-n-Out vs. Wife

LOVE: agape, affection, good will, benevolence, brotherly love.

1 Corinthians 13

1. Emphasis
2. Attitude
3. Endurance

The Emphasis is Love (1-3)

(vs. 1)

I AM ANNOYING

Tongues/eloquence and persuasiveness of heaven and earth (annoying) (It's true, but you're wrong)

It's not about being right, it's about speaking truth, in love.

Ephesians 4:15 ... speaking the truth in love...

(vs. 2)

I AM NOTHING

you can be a giant and warrior for the kingdom but without love - I AM NOTHING
"There is a vast difference between how knowledgeable someone is about love and how interwoven and rooted the love of God has become in their own lives."

(Vs. 3)

I AM EMPTY

The most giving person on earth – there is no gain.

The world can try and do "what" we do, but they cannot do it "how" we do.

Disclaimer

Weight

Flog

Freedom

The Attitude of Love (4-7)

Description vs. Definition

IS NOT

Envy

To boil or to kindle resentment because of something someone else has.

Envy stems from a lack of contentment

Acts 7:9 why Joseph was sold into slavery and eventually Potiphar's house.

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." – commandment 10 vs. 7

Parade itself

Boast or brag about yourself

To sponsor a billboard with your own picture on it.

Social Media?

I worked 8 hours, well I worked 12 – belittle vs. being little

Proverbs 27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

Puffed up

To be inflated, to be proud

Don't you know who I am?! McDonald's Fries

If "*parading yourself*" is the outward talk, being "*puffed up*" is the inward opinion of yourself.

Love is the answer – liberties 1 Corinthians 8:1 Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

Behave Rudely

Preferring yourself above others... hold the door open, offer the last slice of pizza, *cut someone off in the parking lot*, etc.

Seek it's own

What's in it for me?

Not easily provoked

Arouse to anger... irritate

Paul and the demon girl

Having a LONG FUSE

Thinks no evil

Vengeful thinking... payback... sinful

Assuming the worst in others... to theorize as to why people do what they do.

Speck and plank – check the bases: when all you see is bad

Does not rejoice in iniquity

Rejoice: filled with gladness, to celebrate, to find delight in...

Iniquity: unrighteous judges, an act against God's law.

LOVE IS

Suffers long:

To be of a long spirit, not to lose heart, to patiently persevere...

To do so in the face of misfortunes.

To be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others.

To be mild or slow to anger or punishment

When you're the victim... slow to vengeance, quick to love

I'm tired – keep going

It's not working – keep going

I don't see the point – trust God, keep going

Matthew 18: the servant fell down, “master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.”

1 Thessalonians 5:14 be patient with all

Don't be quick to write people off. Well you don't know what they did to me! You're right, I don't... but I know what I did to Jesus and He didn't write me off. So maybe I should stick around just a little longer and see if God want's to do something.

Kind:

In all of Paul's writing, this is the only time the word is used.

To be mild in voice, act of benevolence.

Pleasant, the opposite of harsh, sharp, or bitter.

Quick to listen, slow to speak... even in your mind, just speak to God.

Rejoices in truth (had a counter negative)

- Matthew 2:10... the wise men saw the star in the east, rejoiced with exceedingly great joy
- The lost sheep when found... rejoices over the 1 more than the 99. (Matthew 18)
Right or accurate, aligned with God's will

Celebrate!!!

Bears all things

Provides a covering or a refuge (not aiding and abetting)

Hebrews 8:12 “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.

More than a lack of gossip, a lack of condemnation.

Keeps no record of wrongs – teacher, friend, parent,

Could someone come to you with something heavy even if they wanted to?

Not to be senseless but to be sensitive to what God is doing.

In the vein of not being senseless

Believes all things

Carries with it an element of trust/faith

If someone says “Sorry,” do you say, “I doubt it... they don't mean it... etc.

Ever have an addict in your life? “I'm turning my life around.”

Be careful about making people play by your rules.

Matthew 27:42 “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

Not a Naysayer, one who consistently denies, criticizes, or doubts.

Hopes all things

Not wishful but expectant...

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

If in anything, the return of our Savior, the coming of Jesus.

Endures all things

To remain, bravely and calmly... DO NOT RECEED.

TREE: The Alerce, native to the Andes Mountains. Oldest is 3,646 years old.

- general Sherman in the sequoia national park (2,500)

Love: the mind is not consumed with self but is attentive to others, it's not about self but is willing to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, it inches it's way towards the finish line which is the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. VERY slow to step on what God is doing in the lives of other people and if it can, it will help fan the new flame, no matter how small, rather than watch it smolder, or even worse, stomp it out with doubt and pharisaical expectations and condemnation.

The Endurance of Love (8-13)

(8-10) LOVE NEVER FAILS

Other things are partial or temporary, love is full and everlasting

Love never fails: falls to the ground powerless, of no effect

- Prophecies will fail: they will become inactive, they will have run their course, have no further purpose.

We know in part and we prophesy in part... BUT when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

LOOKING FOR THE BLESSED HOPE AND GLORIOUS APPEARING

Other things are partial or temporary, love is full and everlasting

When that which is perfect has come...

Future tense, this hasn't happened yet (Jesus is on His way...)

When He gets here... all of the temporary will be "done away"

(Sift through all the rubble, find the gold, and burn away the chaff)

11 - Love is what separates the men from the boys

12 we see in a mirror (dimly?)

But it won't always be this way...

"Then"... referencing that which is perfect arriving

Face to Face – all that we know, we shall know fully!

13. closes with this word abide

Train pulling out of the station: Faith, Hope, Love

- Walk by faith
- Hope in Christ
- The love of Christ that compels us.

Default: when something automatically goes back to a preselected option.

Default to love – charity, investing ourselves into the lives of those whom Christ died for

Abide: remain or continue

The greatest of these is love.

We are so prone to start with self... is “David” like this?

- This is not a whip that you should use to flog yourself into condemnation
It's not that we are not loving, it's that we are too self-loving
- This is not a weight put before you so heavy that you cannot lift it

Warning: Don't strive for it, walk in it.

We are just the conduit...

“God's love has to hit your heart before it can flow through your life.”

We need to start with Jesus... TOWARDS YOU

- Jesus suffers long and is kind,
- Jesus does not envy, does not parade Himself, is not puffed up,
- Jesus does not behave rudely, does not seek His own interests
- Jesus is not easily provoked,
- Jesus thinks no evil towards you.
- Jesus bears all things you've done, believes all things.
- Jesus endures all things, Jesus never fails... will never fail you.

Not affection but actual goodness

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.