

THE SUPERLATIVE WAY (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2) And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. 3) And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

1. The persons to whom these words were addressed were:

1. Full of what may be called ambition. be
2. It seems that in the church they aspired to 'conspicuous figures on the stage'
3. They were scrambling for the gift that each thought to be best.

2. The Apostle seems to have their correction in view when he writes:

1. 1 Cor. 12:31; "But covet earnestly the best gifts: Yet show I unto a more excellent way."
2. The "more excellent way" is the way of love.
3. This "more excellent way" lies open to all Christians without distinction.
4. This "more excellent way" is the way open to every one, unobstructed, leading straight to the goal of Christian greatness.
5. This "more excellent way" is the way of love which Paul proceeds to lay before us.

3. The three kinds of gifts involved in these verses are:

1. EMOTIONAL GIFTS:

1. The gift of tongues was an emotional gift.
2. As good as this gift was in that day it was not good if it terminated within itself.
3. By itself Paul said, is no more than sounding brass or clanging cymbal: deafening empty noises.
4. Emotion is a good servant but a bad master.
 1. Emotions must be put to the service of right thinking and right action.

2. INTELLECTUAL GIFTS:

1. "Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and all faith to remove mountains..."
 1. The power of lofty utterances belonged to Balaam but it did not profit him anything for love was absent from him.
 2. Lord, Lord, exclaim the troubled souls at the left hand, "have we not prophesied in thy Name?" Yet he answered them, "I never knew you." Matthew 7:21, 22
 3. All mysteries:
 1. Though I could speak of the secrets of God once hidden but now revealed through me.
 4. All knowledge: Deep and correct insight into all Scripture. Far above that of any one else.
 5. All faith:
 1. Not likely meaning justifying faith or saving faith, BUT, "that faith so that I could remove mountains." Matt. 17:20; 21:21

3. PRACTICAL GIFTS: "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned..."

1. Charity, almsgiving, even self-sacrifice at the burning stake, here come into view.
2. Abounding charity and unlimited self-surrender may be worthless for the worth of these good qualities lie not in what we give but in how we give what we give.

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2. Abounding charity and unflinching self-surrender may be worthless for the worth of these good qualities lie not in what we give but in how we give what we give.

4. All these gifts, (Prophecy, understanding mysteries, all knowledge, all faith, giving all goods to feed the poor, giving body to be burned) are within themselves good. We would speak of such men in our day as:
 1. "Go-getters" 2) "Mountain movers" 3) "Great teacher" 4) "A good giver" 5) "A smoothe talker"
 1. All of these are admiring titles for a man.
 2. "Without love, I am nothing," Paul said.
 1. No expression, I think, could be found that would involve a more forcible rebuke to all intellectual and spiritual pride.
5. And what is love?
 1. One man said that, Love is the identification of ourselves with God's interest in others.
 2. We cannot force ourselves to love others.
 3. Some wrote of the war that Dickens declared:
 1. He declared war against the heartless relief of the poor.
 2. Today there is so much organized charity, whether national or private, that people in great need, often have been repelled by its apparent lack of real love.
 3. Love is the motive that determine the real value of a gift. Love makes every gift and every service precious in the sight of God.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 OUTLINE 2. Liberty Hill, Texas. Wednesday night
lesson Feb. 8, 1978

THE ATTRIBUTES OF LOVE. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (LESSON TWO)

ATTRIBUTE: (Noun, Might be a verb transitive) Describing quality: Adjective.

1. To explain by way of cause.
2. To regard as a characteristic of a person or thing.
2. Describing a quality.

1 Cor. 13:4

1. "Love suffereth long."
 1. Love is long suffering as opposed to impatience.
2. "Love is kind". (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12-14)
 1. Love is kind as opposed to malice and ill-will
 2. Love justifies itself in kind deeds and compassion to others.
3. "Love envieth not."
 1. Love is opposed to envy and jealousy.
 2. Love is not jealous of the endowments of others.
 3. Love recognizes that, "God hath set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." 1 Cor. 12:18
4. "Love vaunteth not itself."
 1. Love does not display itself as a braggart.
 2. No foolish display of self-importance.
 3. Love does not show off: Doe not do its alms before men to be seen of them. Matt. 6:1-3
5. "Love is not puffed up."
 1. Love is not inflated or swollen by self-conceit. It has been rendered, "Does not swell and swagger nor strut with an an air of self importance."

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14. Love is kind as opposed to malice and ill-will.
15. "Love is kind." (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12-14)
16. Love is love suffering as opposed to impotence.
17. "Love suffereth long."

THE ATTRIBUTES OF LOVE. I Corinthians 13:4-7 (LESSON TWO)

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3. "Love envieth not."
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ON ATTRIBUTES OF LOVE. 1 Cor. 13:4-71 Cor. 13:51. "Love doth not behave itself unseemly."

1. Love is not discourteous but shows the instinct of right conduct. Right regard for others. Respect for oneself and right respect for others.
2. The tone of the voice, 2) the look of the eye, 3) the muscular play of the countenance are not physical facts only, but they are expressions and languages that come direct from the soul: the inner man.

2. "Love seeketh not her own."

1. Some one wrote that, "Love has not a wish, a desire, an aim, an aspiration bounded by the limits of itself."
2. Love has right regard for others.

3. "Love is not easily provoked."

1. Much of our peevishness, our anger, our resentment simply wounds that being that we call by our name.
2. Love is not provoked, its temper is not quick, its words are not hasty. (How could it be otherwise when it thinketh no evil?)

4. "Love thinketh no evil"

1. Though the evil is very real...
 1. Love refuses to bear it in mind
 2. Love does not fix its attention and keep it fixed on the wrong.
 3. Continually thinking on evil, injury or injustice has a very decided moral effect on one's character.

1 Cor. 13:61. "Love rejoices not in iniquity."

1. Love does not rejoice in the overthrow and prostration of others.
2. Love does not rejoice in the down fall of another even though that other made himself a rival. His downfall is not gratification to love. (Love cannot rejoice in such a calamity to another)

2. "Love rejoices in the truth."

1. We have here a picture of LOVE AND TRUTH side by side.
2. There are many who resist the truth. 2 Tim. 3:8.
3. There are people who "hold the truth in unrighteousness." Rom. 1:18
4. But love accepts the truth, keeps it pure, and rejoices in all of its triumphs. (2 John 4) "I rejoiced greatly that I found of they children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the father."

1 Cor. 13:71. "Love beareth all things."

1. Love endures wrongs and evils and covers them with the robe of compassion and sympathy.
2. Thus you can say, "Hatred stirreth up strife: but love covereth all sins." Proverbs 10:12; 1 Peter 4:8; "And above all things have fervent love among yourselves: for love shall cover the multitude of sins."

2. "Love beleieveth all things."

1. Love takes the best and kindest views fo all men and all circumstances as long as it is possible to do so.

3. "Love hopeth all things." Because it is a sister of love HOPE takes a sunny and cheerful view of things.4. "Love endureth all things." Whether the seventy times seven times of a brother (Matt. 18:21,22; Luke 17:1-5) or a lack of appreciation of a life spent in doing good. 2 Tim. 2:10.

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1. "The church of Christ is a community of believers who are united by their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His teachings."

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I Cor. 12:13

1. "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..."

2. "And we were all made one flesh..."

3. "And we are all members of His body..."

4. "And we are all members of His body..."

5. "And we are all members of His body..."

I Cor. 13:1-3

1. "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am like a brass that tinkles..."

2. "If I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and have not charity, I am like a bell that rings..."

3. "If I give to the poor, and feed the hungry, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing..."

4. "Charity is the love of God which is poured into our hearts..."

I Cor. 13:4-8

1. "Charity is patient, charity is kind..."

2. "Charity is not jealous, charity is not puffed up..."

3. "Charity is not vainglorious, charity is not arrogant..."

4. "Charity is not easily provoked..."

5. "Charity is slow to anger..."

6. "Charity is not proud..."

7. "Charity is not self-seeking..."

8. "Charity is not easily angered..."

9. "Charity is not proud..."

10. "Charity is not self-seeking..."

11. "Charity is not easily angered..."

12. "Charity is not proud..."

I Cor. 13:13

1. "And now abide faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity..."

LIBERTY HILL MARCH 8, 1978.

1 Corinthian 13:8:

1. THE PERMANENCE OF LOVE

1. All objects around us are transient. All these objects play an important role in our lives one way or another; yet they are ever passing away.
2. There will be a vanishing and cessation of the intellectual gifts (prophecies, tongues, knowledge) such as Paul mentions but love will go unendingly on for "Love never faileth."

3. Here Paul illustrates and enforces the superiority of love by three contrasts. They are:

1. PROPHECIES

1. Prophecy will fail (come to an end) while love still remains the distinctive feature of the Church of Christ.

2. TONGUES

1. "Whether there be tongues they shall cease." Such a gift was temporary.

1. Even living languages become dead languages. (Latin). The Greek language in which Paul wrote this letter has about ceased

3. KNOWLEDGE

1. "Whether there be knowledge it shall vanish away."
2. This was miraculous knowledge as given to the Corinthian church as needed. IT SHALL VANISH AWAY...BE NO MORE
3. Knowledge is a growing, expanding, developing thing, so, the learned man of today may be completely behind the times tomorrow. EXAMPLES: Geography, medicine, Science ETC.
4. Knowledge, the miraculous knowledge they received will vanish away but love will go on unendingly.
5. Speaking of love one poet expressed it this way:

When the last lip is palsied
And the last prayer is said;
Love shall reign immortal
While the world lies dead.

-F. L. Knowles

1 CORINTHIANS 18:9

1. "For we know in part..."

1. Knowing in part is the result of the limitations of our powers.
2. Knowing in part refers to the miraculous knowledge that they received "in part" as they needed it.
3. Partial knowledge is what the Corinthians had.
4. What he has received and what he now knows as regards Christ and Christianity will be completed when "that which is perfect is come."

2. "We prophesy in part..."

1. Some said in Matt. 7:22 "Have we not prophesied in thy name?"
 1. I do not know what they prophesied about.
2. The Corinthians (some of them) could prophesy. 1 Cor. 12:10
 1. Some have said that the prophet here may have been a "forth-teller" rather than a "fore-teller".
 2. It seems that in whatever way he prophesied, or, the measure that was his it was somewhat limited. He did not have plenary power.
 3. About what he did one thing is sure. 1 Cor. 14:3; "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."

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LIBERTY HILL, TEXAS...MARCH 8, 1978

1 Corinthians 13:10-12

1. These verses teach that what they had then was not yet complete

1. Verse 10:

1. "When that which is perfect is come..."
2. PERFECT: That which is complete, entire, as opposed to what is partial and limited.
 1. Referring to the "perfect will of God". Romans 12:2

2. Verse 10:

1. "Then that which is in part shall be done away".
 1. The imperfect will give way to the perfect; the perishable to the enduring.
 2. It may be that this time came when the church was fully matured because special gifts then ceased.

1. Let us look at the following chart as prepared by brother Roy Lanier.

1. Note the language used in the verses 9-12:

1. THE TIME OF IMMATURITY:

1. The Child: When I was a child.
2. The Mirror: Through a glass darkly.
3. Know in Part: For we know in part.

2. TIME OF MATURITY:

1. The man: When I became a man.
2. Face to Face: Now in a glass darkly...Then face to face.
 1. Able to discern perfectly his nature, his will, his purposes.
3. Know fully. How are we known:
 1. By their fruits Matt. 7:15-20
 2. We can fully know the truth. John 8:32; 1 Tim 4:3)

3. WHEN THE PERFECT IS COME, WHAT THEN? MATURITY IS HERE

1. Miraculous knowledge done away. Vanish away.
2. Prophecy done away.
3. Tongues ceased. (That which was perfect (Complete) had come.

2. Concluding thoughts on these verses:

1. "In part" is time of Immaturity.
2. "Perfect" is time of Maturity.

1 Corinthians 13:13

1. FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE TO CONTINUE

1. We will not have faith and hope in heaven.
 1. Faith will give way to sight.
 2. Faith will become trust without any misgivings.
 3. Hope will give way to that which we actually have. Rom. 8:24, 25
 4. Love will then become adoration without coldness
 5. Love will be supreme calling forth the adoration and affection of the countless host.

John 13:34, 35

Same; 1 John 4:7-11

1 John 3:10, 11, 16-19, 23

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