

SUBJECT :

The Love Gift

BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:

1Corinthians 13:1-13

BIBLE TRUTH:

Love is more than a four letter word. 1Cor. 12:31

MEMORY VERSE: 1Cor. 13:13

**Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three
but the greatest of these is charity**

Lesson Aim:

**That we learn that we must have more
than just love for someone, we must get
love to someone. John 13:35**

Introduction

- There is no question, what the world needs more than anything else, is love. If people loved each other, really loved each other, there would be no more war, crime, abuse, injustice, poverty, hunger, starvation, homelessness, deprivation, or immorality. Love is the one ingredient that could revolutionize society. Love is the highest form of human life. Love is the most excellent way for a man to live. Why? Because God is Love. 1John 4:7-8, Matt. 1:20-23
- This love have been given to every born again believer. Rom 5:1-5. This love reaches beyond the limitations of human love (Eros) which arises from man's own inner passions.
- This love is selfless and sacrificial or agape love. It is the love of the mind, of the reason, of the will. This is the love that goes so far... that it loves God more than self. This love can love a person even if the person doesn't deserve to be loved.
- This agape love is the love of God, the very love possessed by God Himself. It is the love demonstrated in the cross of Christ. It is the love of God for the ungodly. It is the love of God for undeserving sinners. Rom. 5:5-10
- This love is the greatest thing in all of life according to the Lord Jesus Christ. Mark 12:29-31, 1Cor. 13:13

Do The Math

- 1 Cor. 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal..
- The mathematics of love. Paul says, If I do (X), and even if I do (X) to the highest possible degree, but do not have love, then I am nothing. In mathematical terms, this verse may be restated as; $X - \text{Love} = 0$.
- Paul says, if I could speak the language of every mans tongue, that would be a great achievement. If I could speak even the language of the heavenly beings, this would be even greater But if I have no love, it doesn't mean a thing. Acts 2:4, 1Cor. 14:2
- Without love nothing we do makes any difference in God's sight, no matter how great it might appear to men. 1Sam. 16:7
- Sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal means we are making a lot of useless noise with no meaning. A person can possess the spiritual gift of tongues, that is, speak in the heavenly languages of angels; but if he does not have love. His heavenly, angelic language is meaningless.
- Note the phrase "*he becomes.*" This is a crucial point: the gifted person's speech is not only meaningless, the person himself *becomes useless*. He becomes useless in his life and ministry for Christ. Matt. 5:13

Here's Another Math Problem

- [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 charity, I am nothing.
- Again, Paul says, a person may have the gift of prophecy and speak under the inspiration of God's Spirit; but if he does not have love, he is nothing. Not only is his gift nothing, but he is nothing. In mathematical terms, this verse may be restated as; $X - \text{Love} = 0$. Why?
- There is always the danger of feeling and acting prideful because of one's prophetic gifts and eloquence. Remember Jonah 1:1-3
- There is the gift of understanding "all mysteries and all knowledge". Just imagine! A person possessing all the knowledge in the world! Yet if he does not have love, he would be nothing! Why?
- The danger is looking down upon others, of feeling that one is more knowledgeable or better equipped than others. A coolness or detachment or aloofness often characterizes such a person. Rom. 12:3
- There is the gift of faith, that is, the very special gift of faith that is given by the Holy Spirit to remove mountains and to do great and miraculous things for God. Note the word "all". Imagine a person possessing "all faith"; yet, if he did not possess love, he *would be nothing*. In mathematical terms, this verse may be restated as: $X - \text{Love} = 0$. Why?
- The danger is spiritual pride, an overblown sense of importance. They can easily began to see themselves as a wonder. 2Cor. 4:7

Here's Another Zero

- [3] And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.
- Giving without love profits nothing. Imagine giving everything “giving *all* my goods to feed the poor” yet, if I have not love, it profits me nothing. In mathematical terms, this verse may be restated as: $X - \text{Love} = 0$. Why?
- There are several dangers in giving. There are the dangers of: giving out of duty, giving with contempt because one is forced to give, giving with an air of superiority because one has and the needy do not have, giving with a rebuke because one feels the needy are just irresponsible and ought to make their own way in life. 2Cor. 9:7
- There is the illustration of martyrdom, the most terrible martyrdom of all; being burned alive at the stake. Yet, if a person does not have love, his martyrdom profits him nothing. He dies in vain. In mathematical terms, this verse may be restated as $X - \text{Love} = 0$. Why?
- There is always the danger of counting martyrdom as a thing of glory and of pride, as something to show one's commitment to a cause. If a believer is ever called upon to die as a martyr, he is to die only out of love for Christ and for his fellow man. Act 7:58-60

Love Defined

- [4] Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
- Starting here, Paul gives us the definition of love which include 15 virtues. God as the source of life is expressed in Love. 1John 4:16
- All 15 virtues listed in verses 4-7 are the divine virtues of Gods life. Such a life differs from the outward gifts listed in chapter 12. The Corinthians were after the outward gifts, but they neglected love, the expression of life. Thus, they were still carnal. 1Cor. 3:1-3, 2:14
- These 15 virtues is what the Corinthian church needed;
- Love suffers willingly for a long time without resentment or anger. Rom. 12:17-21
- Love reaches out in kindness. Col. 3:12, Eph. 4:32
- Love does not envy: is not jealous; does not have bad feelings against others because of what they have. Pro. 14:30, James 3:14-16
- Love does not begrudge or attack or downplay the abilities and success of others. Pro. 3:31,
- Love does not vaunt itself : is not boastful; does not brag nor seek recognition, honor, or applause from others. On the contrary, love seeks to applaud the other person. Rom. 12:3, Phil. 2:3
- Love is not puffed up: prideful, arrogant, conceited; does not think nor act as though oneself is better or above others. Mat. 18:4, Luke 14:10, 22:26, 1Peter 5:5

Definition Of Love Continued

- [5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
- Love does not behave itself unseemly: unbecomingly, rudely, indecently, unmannerly, disgracefully. Love does nothing to shame oneself. Love is orderly and controlled; and it behaves and treats all persons with respect, honoring who they are. Phil.1:10, 2Thes. 3:7
- Love seeks not her own: is not selfish; does not insist upon its own rights. Love is not focused upon who one is nor upon what one has done. Love seeks to serve, not have others serving oneself. Love is acknowledging others, not insisting that others acknowledge oneself; it is giving to others, not insisting that others give to oneself. 1Cor. 10:24, Phil. 2:4
- Love is not easily provoked: not easily angered; not ready to take offence; not quick tempered; not “touchy”. It is not easily aroused to anger; does not become “exasperated” Love controls the emotions, and never becomes angry without a cause. Rom. 12:18, Col. 3:8, Jam. 1:19, Pro. 16:32, Ecc. 7:9
- Love does not think evil: does not consider the wrong suffered; is not resentful; does not hold the evil done to oneself. Love suffers the evil done to it and forgets it. Matt. 5:39, Romans 12:17, 1 Peter 3:9

Still Defining Love

- [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;.
- Love does not rejoice in iniquity: unrighteousness, evil, wrong-doing. Love does not take pleasure in the unrighteousness and sins of others; it does not feed upon sin and wrong, nor does it pass along the stories of sin and wrong. Rom. 1:32
- Man's nature is too often fed the tragedies of evil, whether personal sin or natural disaster the daily news reports and most subjects of conversation between so many people. Matt. 7:3, Rom. 15:1, Gal. 6:1, 1Pet. 4:8
- Love rejoices in the truth: rejoices when the truth is known and when it prevails; rejoices when others are recognized and promoted for whom they are and for what they have contributed. Love rejoices when the truth is rooted and grounded in a person and among the people of the world. Note that love never covers nor hides the truth; love is courageous in that it faces the truth. Eph. 4:25, 6:14, Zech. 8:16, Mal, 2:6

The Power Of Love

- [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things
- Love bears all things: the word bears means both to cover all things and to bear up under all things. Love does both: it stands up under the weight of all things and it covers up the faults of others. It has no pleasure in exposing the wrong and weaknesses of others. Love bears up under any neglect, abuse, ridicule. Eph. 4:2-3, 6:9
- Love believes all things: is completely trusting; always eager to believe the best. Love sees and understands the circumstances and accepts and forgives. Luke 17:4, Eph. 4:32, Col. 3:13
- Love hopes all things: it never ceases to hope; it expects the good to eventually triumph and to gain the victory; it refuses to accept failure; no matter how fallen or how tragic the fall or how difficult gaining the victory may seem. Rom. 8:24, 15:4, 1 John 3:3
- Love endureth all things: the word endures is a military word meaning to stand against the attack of an enemy. Love actively fights and endures all attacks. Love is strong, full of fortitude and fight, and it struggles against any and every assault to buckle in to being unloving. No matter what attacks love, named or unnamed, it endures the attack and continues to love. Matt. 10:22, 1Cor. 15:58, Gal. 6:9
Jam, 1:12, 5:11, Rev. 3:11

The Permanency of Love

- [8] Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. [9] For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. [10] But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.
- Love never fails, never ceases, and never vanishes. But not so with spiritual gifts: the spiritual gifts shall cease to be and shall vanish. When? When we stand in eternity before God. Spiritual gifts are only temporary; they are not permanent; therefore, they are far inferior to the love gift. Spiritual gifts are only temporary tools for us to use in reaching and ministering to a lost and needy world. Mark 16:17-20
- Note how believers become guilty of the very things they accuse the world of doing: focusing upon the temporary instead of the eternal. Too many believers glory in their earthly gifts and abilities instead of serving and ministering in love. Luke 16:7-9
- Love is perfect and complete. We know nothing perfectly, and we can proclaim and predict the truth only with partial certainty. No person knows all the truth. However, a day of perfection is coming, and when it comes, only that which is perfect will stand and endure.
- The point is this: Love is God Himself; therefore, love shall endure and be vehicle that all believers will ride into eternity.

Manhood And Christ likeness Are Synonymous

- [11] When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. [12] For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.
- There comes a time in our life that we must grow up and face responsibility. Paul included himself in this illustration of a child putting away all his childish behaviors and thoughts and began to embrace the calling on his life to be a man. Isa. 55:6-7
- Mankind still remains immature and imperfect, no matter what area of his life is being considered. However, the day of maturity is coming, the day when he shall set aside all the childhood understanding and thoughts and become a perfected man. When will that day come? It will come when love is perfected between God and man and between man and man. 1John 3:1-3
- Our present relationship with the Lord is comparable to the reflection we see through a dark mirror. We can faintly see the figure, but it is not fully distinct nor clear. Therefore, we only see God and the truth in part and we only know God and the truth in part.
- It is love that will be perfected and that will bring the day of perfection to reality for man. It is love that will bring us into a face to face relationship with God and into a perfect knowledge of truth.

Love The Greatest Gift

- [13] And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.
- Both faith and hope are great qualities and gifts, but love is far superior. Why? Faith focuses upon the revelation of God, whereas love focuses upon *God Himself*. We know about God only by the revelation of God through Jesus Christ, the Word, nature, and the inner witness of thoughts and conscience. A person can believe in someone and not love him. Rom. 1:18-20
- Hope focuses upon being eternally with God in a perfect world, but again, love is superior because it focuses upon God Himself. A person can have hope in someone without loving him.
- Love does not originate in the nature of man, but in the nature of God. God is love. Therefore love, which is the basic trait of God's nature, is far superior to faith and hope.
- A man can know true love only as he comes to know the love of God. This love can only be received through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rom. 1:16
- To every born again believer, the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Rom. 5:1-5
- Love has no weaknesses, Love has no dangers, Love has no laws to govern itself, Love never fails, never comes short. But remember Love involves control and discipline, selflessness and sacrifice.