

“What is Love?”
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

I. Love is essential for anything to matter (vs. 1-13).

- A. Without love, being amazingly gifted means nothing.
- B. Without love, no ministry matters.
- C. Without love, any sacrifice that I make is worthless.

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II. Love is given and defined by God (vs. 4-8a).

- A. The source of true love is God.
- B. The qualities of true love are revealed by God.

Charity suffereth long [μακροθυμέω (makrothumeó)]

- to bear up under provocation without complaint, be patient, forbearing.
- I suffer long, have patience, am forbearing, perseverance.
- properly, long-tempered (to defer anger), refusing to retaliate with anger, because of human reasoning.

is kind [χρηστεύομαι (chrésteuomai)]

- I am kind (full of service to others), gentle

charity envieth not [ζηλώω (zélóó)]

- be positively and intensely interest in something., strive, desire, exert oneself earnestly, be dedicated

- to have intense negative feelings over another's achievements or success, be filled w. jealousy, envy

charity vaunteth not itself [περπερεύομαι (perpereuomai)]

- to heap praise on oneself, behave as a περπερος (braggart, windbag).
- I boast, vaunt myself.

is not puffed up [φυσιώω (phusioó)]

- to cause to have an exaggerated self-conception, puff up, make proud
- I inflate, puff up; pass: I am puffed up, arrogant, proud.
- properly, inflate by blowing; (figuratively) swelled up, like an egotistical person spewing out arrogant ("puffed-up") thoughts.

doth not behave itself unseemly [ἀσχημονέω (aschémoneó)]

- to behave disgracefully, dishonorably, indecently
- to act improperly, am unseemly, behave unbecomingly (or even dishonorably);
- from *asxémōn*, "without proper shape, form" – to act unseemly (literally, "improperly"); (figuratively) to lack proper form and hence thought of as unseemly (indecent, unbecoming).

seeketh not her own [ζητέω (zétéó)]

- to devote serious effort to realize one's desire or objective
- I seek, search for, desire, require, demand
- properly, to seek by inquiring; to investigate to reach a binding (terminal) resolution; to search, "getting to the bottom of a matter."

is not easily provoked [παροξύνω (paroxunó)]

- I arouse anger, provoke, irritate.
- from *pará*, "alongside" and *oxys*, "a sharp edge" – properly, cut close alongside, i.e. to incite ("jab") someone and stimulate their feelings (emotions); "become emotionally provoked (upset, roused to anger)."

thinketh no evil [λογίζομαι (logizomai)]

- to determine by mathematical process, *reckon*, *calculate*
- I reckon, count, charge with; reason, decide, conclude; think, suppose.
- properly, compute, "take into account"; reckon (come to a "bottom-line"), i.e. reason to a logical conclusion (decision).

rejoiceth not in iniquity

does not rejoice [χαίρει (chairei)]

- to be in a state of happiness and well-being, rejoice, be glad
- properly, to delight in God's *grace*

iniquity [ἀδικία (adikia)]

- an act that violates standards of right conduct, *wrongdoing*
- the quality of injustice, *unrighteousness*, *wickedness*, *injustice*
- a feminine noun derived from A "not" and *díkē*, "justice" – properly, the opposite of justice; unrighteousness, as a violation of God's standards (justice) which brings divine disapproval; a count (violation) of God's justice, i.e. what is contrary to His righteous judgments (what He approves).

rejoiceth in the truth

“but rejoices” [συγχαίρω (sugchairó)]

- I rejoice with, congratulate.
- From *sýn*, "identify with" and *χαίρō*, "rejoicing in God's grace" – properly, sharing God's grace with another person, so that both rejoice together (mutually participate in God's favor, grace).

“the truth”

- ἀλήθεια (alétheia)
- truth, but not merely truth as spoken; truth of idea, reality, sincerity, truth in the moral sphere, divine truth revealed to man, straightforwardness.
- from *alēthēs*, "true to fact" – properly, truth (true to fact), reality.
- [In ancient Greek culture, (alétheia) was synonymous for "reality" as the opposite of illusion, i.e. fact.]

beareth all things [στέγω (stegó)]

- I cover, conceal, ward off, bear with, endure patiently.
- properly, to place under roof, to cover-over (with a roof); (figuratively) to endure because shielded, i.e. bearing up (forbearing) because under the Lord's protection (covering).
- to cover closely (so as to keep water out), generally to bear up under

believeth all things [πιστεύω (pisteuó)]

- I believe, have faith in, trust in; pass: I am entrusted with.

- from *pístis*, "faith," derived from *peíthō*, "persuade, be persuaded" – believe (affirm, have confidence)

hopeth all things [ἐλπίζω (elpizó)]

- I hope, hope for, expect, trust.
- to hope, actively waiting for God's fulfillment about the faith He has in birthed through the power of His love

endureth all things
[ὑπομένω (hupomenó)]

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- I remain behind, (b) I stand my ground, show endurance, (c) I endure, bear up against, persevere.
- literally, remaining under (the load), bearing up (enduring); for the believer, this uniquely happens by God's power (cf. 1 Thes 3:5).

Charity never faileth [πίπτω (piptó)]

- I fall, fall under (as under condemnation), fall prostrate.

III. Love is the greatest of the gifts given by God (vs. 8-13).

A. The spiritual gifts that we have will be done away with.

B. Love will always remain.

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Scripture References and Notes

1 John 4:7-19 (NKJV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

