**"THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS**

 Chapter Thirteen

**What did Paul mean in chap. 12 when he said the following concerning spiritual gifts…..31But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.**

**Paul seems to continue on his path of correction of some of the leaders in the church of Corinth. So here in this particular verse he emphasizes that they were very talented ministers but lacked the most important thing in their delivery of the gifts they employed so he encouraged them by telling them to go after the best gifts they can possess but that he will yet show them that the gifts are ok to obtain but they lacked yet one thing………the energy, faith, hope and power behind all the gifts of the Spirit of God…………………LOVE!!!**

**Let us read and hear The Love Chapter**

**And see what we can learn from it as Paul describes it in details….**

**Chapter 13 1 Corinthians**

**13 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.2And 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.3And 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.4Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,5Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;6Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;7Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.8Charity 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.9For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.10But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.11When 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.12For 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.13And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.**

**b. Love: The more excellent way (**[**13:1-13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:1-1Cor%2013:13)**) I Corinthians can be broken down in 3 parts……**

[Ch. 13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:1-1Cor%2013:13) presents in three parts the excellence of Christian love personified by comparison to every gift and all other human values. The first three verses ([13:1-3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:1-1Cor%2013:3)) explains love's necessity; the second set of verses ([vv. 4-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:4-1Cor%2013:7)) describes loves activity; the third ([vv. 8-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:8-1Cor%2013:13)) affirms its eternity and superiority to all other values. The conclusion to [ch. 12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2012:1-1Cor%2012:31) and the introduction to [ch. 14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2014:1-1Cor%2014:40) suggest that [ch. 13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:1-1Cor%2013:13) is something of a parenthesis within the apostle's argument. But it is neither irrelevant nor independent of its context. It refers both forward and backward in the logic of Paul's treatment of spiritual gifts and has numerous points of contact with the earlier chapters as well.

So then the 3 main **OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER should be the following….**

1) To see the value of love in our service to the Lord

2) To understand the scriptural definition of "love"

3) To determine when spiritual gifts would cease.

Beloved, don’t expect a date or a time from me!! But when He puts in His appearance why would we need any more gifts!!!

**SUMMARY**

After first emphasizing the importance of love (**1-3**), he then defines love by what it is and what it does

(**4-8a**). Ending with love's quality of "permanence", Paul contrasts it

with the temporary nature of spiritual gifts. Though such gifts

fulfilled an important function, the time would come when they would

cease, while qualities like faith, hope, and love would remain (**8-13**).

**I. THE "IMPORTANCE" OF LOVE (1-3) The first (**[**13:1-3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:1-1Cor%2013:3)**) explains love's necessity**;

 **A. IN REGARD TO SPEAKING IN TONGUES (1)**

 1. Even if one spoke with tongues of men and of angels...

 2. Without love, the person would be like sounding brass or a

 clanging cymbal

 **B. IN REGARD TO THE GIFTS OF PROPHECY AND FAITH (2)**

 1. Even if one had the gift of prophecy to understand all

 mysteries and all knowledge...

 2. Even if one had the gift of faith sufficient to remove

 mountains...

 3. Without love, such a person is nothing

 **C. IN REGARD TO GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICE (3)**

 1. Even if one gave all their goods to the poor...

 2. Even if one were willing to be burned at the stake...

 3. Without love, it profits the person nothing

**Beloved in our time of Service unto the Lord Love must be the key focus!!**

**II. THE "DEFINITION" OF LOVE (4-8a) ; the second (**[**vv. 4-7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:4-1Cor%2013:7)**) describes its activity**

 **A. LOVE'S "POSITIVE" QUALITIES (4a)**

 1. Suffers long

 2. Is kind

 **B. LOVE'S "NEGATIVE" QUALITIES (4b-6a)**

 1. Does not envy; does not parade itself, is not puffed up

 2. Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not

 provoked, thinks no evil

 3. Does not rejoice in iniquity

 **C. LOVE'S "POSITIVE" QUALITIES, CONTINUED (6b-8a)**

 1. Rejoices in the truth

 2. Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,

 endures all things

 3. Never fails

**Beloved it is crucial for all who walk with the Lord to fully understand.. the scriptural definition of "love**"

**III. THE "PERMANENCY" OF LOVE (8-13) the third (**[**vv. 8-13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2013:8-1Cor%2013:13)**) affirms its eternity**

 **and superiority to all other values**

 **A. IN CONTRAST TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS (8-12)**

 1. Love never fails, but spiritual gifts will cease (**8**)

 2. Spiritual gifts to cease when that which is perfect is comes

 (**9-10**)

 3. Spiritual gifts equated with "childish things", which are put

 away at maturity (**11**)

 4. Spiritual gifts necessary when knowledge (revelation?) is

 partial (**12**)

 **B. IN ITS ABIDING NATURE (13)**

 1. What will abide (remain) is faith, hope, love

 2. The greatest being love

**My brothers and Sisters in the Lord we must never forget that Love is Superior to all gifts for all spiritual gifts would cease but Love will continue forever!!!**

**Beloved I’ll close tonights teaching on this one scripture from…**

**1 Cor. 14:12**

**12Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of**

 **the church.**

**END CHAPTER 13**