

This Week

Churchwide
Worship Services Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
Bible Fellowships Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
Small Groups
Women’s Community Group Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM in the Loft
Adult Studies
The Book of Matthew Wednesday, 6:30–7:30 AM in the Dining Room
The Book of Acts Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Tejas Room
Quest Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Conference Room
Men
Solid Answers to Serious Questions Tuesday, 6:00–7:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft
Samson Society Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library
Friday Morning Study Friday, 6:30–7:30 AM in the Tejas Room
Women
Engage Monday, 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 209
Respectfully Yours Tuesday, 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 209
Breath Tuesday, 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 208
MOMs Book Study Thursday, 10:00–11:30 AM in Room 208

Senior Adults
Cookout and a Movie Monday, 5:30–8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.
Tuesday Afternoon Study Tuesday, 1:00–2:00 PM in Room 111
College & Career
Late Night Tuesday, 7:00–8:30 PM at the G.Y.M.
Senior High
Jamaica 2016 Informational Meeting Sunday, 6:00–7:30 PM at the G.Y.M.
The ARC Tuesday, 6:30–7:30 PM at Lamar Baptist Church
Senior High Youth Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.
Junior High
Junior High Youth Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.
5th & 6th Grade
Breakaway Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft
Children
Kids’ Quest Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Children’s Area

This Morning

Lesson 24: The Supremacy of Love—*1 Corinthians 13:8-13*
Reggie Coe, Family Pastor

- I. **The enduring character of love:** Love will never fail and will never end—*1 Corinthians 13:8a.*

A. The context for this passage centers on the value of love in the use of spiritual gifts—see *1 Corinthians 13:1–2.*

B. Love never gives out and love never gives up—*1 Corinthians 13:8a.*
- II. **The temporary nature of spiritual gifts:** The revelational gifts and the confirmational gifts had a shelf life—*1 Corinthians 13:8b.*

A. The gifts of prophecy and knowledge represent revelational gifts and would cease to be operational—*1 Corinthians 13:8b; see Ephesians 2:20.*

B. The gift of tongues represents confirmational gifts and would stop—*1 Corinthians 13:8b; see 2 Corinthians 12:2; Hebrews 2:4.*
- III. **The incomplete nature of the gifts of knowledge and prophecy:** Receiving the revelation from God through the use of spiritual gifts provided limited perspective—*1 Corinthians 13:9.*
- IV. **The “perfect” provides complete knowledge:** When the “perfect” comes, the need to depend upon the piece-meal use of spiritual gifts vanishes—*1 Corinthians 13:10.*

A. The “perfect” could refer to the Rapture, when Christ returns for His bride, the church—*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.*

B. The “perfect” could refer to the completed New Testament which the Spirit of God breathed through human authors—*2 Timothy 3:16–17.*

C. At the time Paul wrote this, it could have been either, depending upon whether the Rapture happened in Paul’s lifetime.
- V. **Maturity versus immaturity:** A maturity of perspective comes through the full revelation of God’s truth—*1 Corinthians 13:11–12.*

A. Receiving the truth of God through the use of temporary gifts represented an incomplete manner of growth—*1 Corinthians 13:11.*

B. When Christ returns at the Rapture, or when the Word of God was completed, provides the opportunity to see God face to face—*1 Corinthians 13:12.*
- VI. **The supreme character of love:** As valuable as faith and hope are, love provides the greatest expression of the heart of God—*1 Corinthians 13:13; see 1 Corinthians 13:7.*

Discuss

These questions are offered each week to facilitate further discussion of this morning’s topic in small group settings such as Community Groups or over dinner with family and friends. We hope you find them helpful to your spiritual growth.

1. Paul describes the temporal nature of the spiritual gifts. What is it about love that gives it eternal relevance as opposed to the spiritual gifts?

2. Sometimes we can get too focused on spiritual gifts—which ones we have or don’t have, or even which ones are still active today—and we can lose sight of the importance of love. What distractions in your spiritual life hinder you from focusing on love?

3. Paul finishes this passage with an emphasis on faith, hope, and love—and especially on love. What do you think makes each of these three things so significant in the Christian heart? And why do you think love is set apart?

4. How do you feel God wants to express the supremacy of love through you in your home? In your workplace? With your friends?