

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
The More Excellent Way
1 Cor 13

Last time...spiritual gifts, for spiritual people

- What are they...Ch 12:8-10
- Who “owns” them and gives them...Ch 10:11, 29-30
 “I have the gift of teaching.” (etc)
 No I don’t!
 The Holy Spirit, our Teacher, does and He gives it to me according to His will
 To Him goes all the glory, none to me!
- For what purpose...Ch 12:7, 25, the Royal Law (given by the King, John 13:34-35)
- Conclusion...Ch 12:31

This time...the more excellent Way
We are in 1 Cor 13

v1 tongues...no charity...brass...cymbal:

If I have been given the spiritual gift to speak in tongues

- of man...human language(s) I do not know (Ch 12)
- of angels...Ch 14

but do not exercise that spiritual gift with love

- God’s love, God’s nature (1 John 4:8)
- *agape*...a Greek word that in all the Greek manuscripts ever written
 only appears in the NT manuscripts

but rather for self-centered reasons such as the praises of men, I, while exercising
my spiritual gift, am like a

- sounding brass...a loud brass bell hurting the ears of others
- tinkling cymbal...a clanging cymbal annoying others

v2 prophecy...mysteries...knowledge...faith...not charity...nothing:

If I have been given the spiritual gift of

- prophecy...Ch 14:3
- wisdom...understanding the mysteries of God
- knowledge...a great intellect to know the truths of God
- faith...mountain-moving faith
 - Matt 17:19-20
 - Matt 21:21

but do not exercise the gift with love but for self-centered reasons,
I am nothing

v3 bestow...burned...not charity...profits me nothing:

If I

- have been given the gift of giving (Rom 12:8, 13a) to the max
- surrender my body to be burned
 - persecution (Rom 12:14)
 - as a burnt offering unto the Lord

and do not do these things with love but for self-centered reasons,
the deeds profit me nothing, they are of no eternal benefit to me

The exercising of spiritual gifts in the absence of God's love is

- unfruitful
- annoying
- worthless

v4-8a Charity:

God's love in the most excellent Way being declared to us (Ch 12:31)

1. suffers long
 - longsuffering
 - suffer and suffer and suffer and...
 - patient with others
 - does not fly off the handle
2. kind
 - benevolent, overcoming evil (Rom 12:20-21)
 - the goodwill of others at heart
 - gracious
 - not harsh or oppressive
 - Matt 5:43-48
3. envies not
 - does not covet things of the world or the flesh
 - is not jealous to the harm of another
 - Rom 12:15
4. vaunts not itself
 - does not brag or boast in Self
5. not puffed up
 - not prideful
 - is humble and meek

6. does not behave unseemly
 - in an unbecoming or weird way toward others
 - has no hidden agendas
 - is not manipulative or controlling
7. seeks not her own
 - is not Self-centered or selfish
 - has the best interests of others at heart
8. not provoked
 - “easily” should be in italics
 - not exasperated by others
 - not irritated or annoyed with others
 - not “combustible”
 - is not impulsive but measured in dealing with others
9. thinks no evil
 - does not desire injury or harm to anyone
 - does not think ill of anyone
 - wants the best for everyone
 - wants reconciliation, not condemnation
10. rejoices not in iniquity but rejoices in the truth
 - not pleased with unrighteousness or injustice
 - pleased with the truth
11. bears all things
 - covers in silence ALL
 - endures ALL
 - “He ain’t heavy, he’s My brother”
12. believes all things
 - willing to give the benefit of the doubt to ALL
 - is respectful to ALL
 - is optimistic, not pessimistic
13. hopes all things
 - has a confident expectation in ALL
14. endures all things
 - perseveres thru ALL

15. never fails

- is ALWAYS ALL of the above
- never drops away, never driven off course
- never gives up
- not even once

I cannot find such love within me or any other person

If I substitute my name or anyone's name for "Charity",
these verses are preposterous

But if I substitute "Jesus" for "Charity"....absolutely true!!!

Jer 17:9

1 Tim 2:4-5

Matt 20:28

John 14:6

John 17:17

So what does this *agape* love look like?

We find it...Scripture, only in the words of God

Gen 44:32

Sin-bearer

The motive and the deed: Self-less, Self-denying
love of father and brother,

The result: made reconciliation

Ex 32:34

context; promise: to visit their sins, Personally

Ex 34:5-7

everything about the Lord is a revelation from Him;
Jesus Christ and love are revelations

Hosea 8:13

"visit their sins" via the prophet Hosea/Joshua/Jesus

Hosea 9:9

He will visit their sins, Personally

Jer 14:10

He will visit their sins, Personally via "the weeping
prophet"

Luke 19:41-44

Jesus/Joshua/Hosea

The "weeping" Prophet (John 11:35, Luke 19:41)

The Sin-bearer (Is 53:10-12, 2 Cor 5:21) bears all
Lion of the Tribe of Judah

Dan 9:26...cut off but not for Himself (but for all!)

Jesus wept over Jerusalem

Not because they missed "when"

(70 Weeks of Daniel, Sir Robert Anderson)

But because they missed "Why" and "Who"...visit sins

In our nature (sin, condemned, Rom 7:18), when we read “visit their sins”
in the prophets, we think of justice, judgment, and vengeance
But God in His nature (Self-less and Self-denying Love, 1 John 4:8) is declaring
Grace and Love

Gen 3:21 innocent life given/taken to cover man’s shame
Gen 22 substitute on Mount Moriah, son risen after 3 days dead
Ps 22 the sin sacrifice on the altar (Cross)
Is 53 Messiah is the Father’s sacrifice for man’s sins
Is 49:16 I have graven you upon the palms of My hands
Zech 13:6 I was wounded in the house of My friends
John 10:17-18 My Father loves Me...commandment received of Father
John 15:13 no greater love
1 John 2:1b-2 we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the
 righteous, And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not
 for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world
Luke 22:19-20 Do this in remembrance of Me...remember how I love you

This is *agape*!

This love, the Self-less and Self-denying love of the perfect God, is a revelation to
imperfect man!

v8b they shall fail:

If there are (gifts of) prophesies, they shall fail...cease, stop, no longer needed

Jer 31:34 (after v31-33)

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every
man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know
me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the
LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their
sin no more (God’s love, v4-8a, never fails)

Rev 21:1-7

Rev 21:22-24a

The Word of God NEVER fails

John 10:35 *the scripture cannot be broken*

Luke 16:17 *And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than
one tittle of the law to fail*

Is 42:4 He (My Servant) shall not fail nor be discouraged,
till he have set judgment in the earth

Lam 3:22 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not
consumed, because his compassions fail not*

If there are (gifts of speaking in) tongues, they shall cease/end/stop

If there are (gifts of) knowledge, it shall vanish/cease/stop

(But Love never fails, never ceases!)

And they will cease because...

v9-10 in part...which is perfect is come:

(The spiritual gifts of) Prophecies, tongues, knowledge (etc) will cease because the “need” for them will cease

Now, in these earthly tents, we

- know in part...just a portion!
 - Ps 145:3 Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness *is* unsearchable
 - Rom 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
 - Eph 3:8 ...I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ
- prophesy in part...just a little slice of all that is to be known of God!
 - John 16:12 *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now*

But when

- that which is perfect...Jesus Christ
 - Ps 18:30a God, his way *is* perfect
 - Ps 19:7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul
 - Matt 5:48 with John 10:30
 - Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus
 - Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him
 - 1 John 4:18a There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear
- is come...for us
 - John 14:1-3
 - 2 Cor 5:7 or 1 Thes 4:13-17

Then that which is in part

- our knowledge and teaching/preaching of God
- in these earthly tents

will be done away...cease

2 Cor 5:1-8 glorified, heavenly bodies (1 Cor 15:44-51)

And there will be no need for “know” and “prophesy”

v11 When I was a child:

When I was an immature (self-centered, selfish) child of God (John 1:12-13), I

- spoke as an immature believer
- understood superficially, immaturely
- thought/reasoned immaturely

but when I became a man...

- "grew up"

Eph 4:15 speaking the truth in love/*agape*, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ

- matured in my relationships with Jesus and others
- loved the Lord God and others before Self (Matt 22:36-40)
- abiding in Christ and continuing to follow Jesus and learn of Him
- being conformed into His image

I stopped those immature things/ways

v12 glass, darkly...face to face:

For now...in these earthly tents, in time

we see thru a glass darkly...we perceive spiritual things obscurely,
as if we are looking at a steamed up, low-tech mirror

but then...when Jesus is come for us (v10a) and we are changed and inhabiting
our heavenly bodies, in eternity

face to face...1 John 3:1-2

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

now...in these earthly bodies, in time

I know in part...just a portion, just a little slice

but then...when Jesus is come for us (v10a) and we are changed and inhabiting
our heavenly bodies, in eternity

shall I know..."fully acquainted with"

(different Gr word than "now I know in part")

even as also I am known..."fully acquainted with" (we are known perfectly)

With the move from the earthly tent to the heavenly body comes a
"knowledge explosion"!

v13 now...but the greatest:

In this earthly tent,

- faith...Gen 15:6, Heb 11:6, Eph 2:8-9
- hope...Titus 2:13, Heb 6:19-20
- charity...selfless, self-last love for God and others

The greatest of these is charity...because it is forever, it never fails,
now in time or forever in eternity

Love – that upon which hangs all the Law and the prophets, the Royal Law

Love – God's nature ruling rather than our nature

Love – Self-less and Self-denying – is the most excellent way

- Yesterday
- Today
- Forever

Application

Love wins the day	at the end of the day, love alone stands
argument	Prov 15:1
lost	Rom 5:8

Remember how Jesus loves you

Learn of God's Love

Seek God's Love

Yield all to God's Love

Be a vessel of God's Love

Invitation: Laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit upon and a best gift for this week