

# “THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE”

1 COR 13:13

Satilla Baptist Church

February 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 AM Service

Pastor William Pope

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## I. INTRODUCTION

a. LOVE IS THE GREATEST

## II. THE GREATEST

### a. Greatest Virtue

i. *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.. 1 Cor 13:13 (NKJV)*

#### 1. Faith

a. Without Faith it is impossible to please God

b. Blessed Hope

c. Yet Love is Greater than all. The Greatest Virtue.

### b. Greatest Commandment

i. *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matt 22:36-40 (KJV)*

1. Which is better, To Teach someone a rule, or to teach someone a principle.

a. Salesperson:

i. Teach them things to say or

ii. Teach them to Always be courteous and helpful to every customer in any situation.

### c. Greatest Witness

i. *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35 (KJV)*

1. Preaching a sermon

2. Singing a song

3. Worship

4. Giving

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## 5. Moral Life

### d. Greatest Motivation

- i. *14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 2 Cor 5:14-15*
- ii. *If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15 (KJV)*
  1. Christ's Love for us motivates us
  2. Our Love for Christ motivates us

### e. Greatest Weapon

- i. *7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away 1 Cor 13:7-8 (NKJV)*
  1. Do you have an insurmountable problem with someone?
    - a. Love that problem.
    - b. *1 John 3:18 (NKJV) 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth*

### f. Greatest Return

- i. *35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Luke 6:35 (KJV)*
  1. We must keep our eyes on the scoreboard. Not on the game stats but on the scoreboard of eternity.

### g. Greatest Comfort

- i. *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither*

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*death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35-39 (KJV)*

## **h. Greatest Act of Obedience**

- i. Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments: Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet, and if there is any other commandment—all are summed up by this: Love your neighbor as yourself. 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10 (HCSB)*

## **i. Greatest Encouragement**

- i. Knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up. 1 Cor 8:1 (HCSB)*
  - 1. No One cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.

## **j. Greatest Channel of Faith**

- i. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.. Gal 5:6 (NKJV)*

## **k. Greatest Perfection**

- i. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col 3:12-14 (NKJV)*

## **l. Greatest Test**

- i. If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can<sup>[a]</sup> he love God whom he has not seen? 1 John 4:20 NKJV*

## **m. Greatest Healer**

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i. *7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”(quoted Prov 10:12)[c] 1 Peter 4:7-8 NKJV*

### **n. Greatest Peace**

i. *<sup>18</sup> 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. 1 John 4:18 NKJV*

### **o. Greatest Life:**

i. *Love is patient; love is kind. Love does not envy; is not boastful; is not conceited; <sup>5</sup> does not act improperly; is not selfish; is not easily provoked; does not keep a record of wrongs; <sup>6</sup> finds no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. 1 Cor 13:4-8*

## **III. HOW TO BE ENPOWERED WITH THIS LOVE**

a. *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5 (NKJV)*