

*Love is a matter of life and death*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

## 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

*Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.*

## 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Love is far more important than all the other gifts because:

- 1) The gifts without love are useless – verses 1-3
- 2) Love is more powerful than the gifts - verses 4-7
- 3) Love is more permanent than the gifts.  
- verses 8-13

- 1) Love is patient – the ability to be wronged repeatedly and have the power and opportunity to retaliate but never even think of it
- 2) Love is kind – the ability and attitude of doing anything I can that is useful for someone else
- 3) Love does not envy – it doesn't boil over in selfish passions or selfish attitudes
- 4) Love does not boast – it isn't a windbag that promotes self
- 5) Love is not arrogant – it is not one who brags or who is puffed up with self

6) Love is not rude – it doesn't behave dishonorably. - used also in Romans 1:27 – a disdain for someone else

7) Love is not selfish – does not insist on its own way –

8) Love is not irritable – it doesn't fly off or explode



9) Love is not resentful – it doesn't keep a record of wrongs against you – Doesn't hold a grudge  
2 Corinthians 5:19 – *“that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them..”*

10) Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing - takes no pleasure in other people's sins

11) Love rejoices with the truth – Love is honest

12) Love bears all things – covers with silence – 1 Peter 4:8 – *“Love covers a multitude of sins.”*

13) Love believes all things – Love is not suspicious – believes the best

14) Love hopes all things – Love never gives up on the grace of God operating in someone’s life

15) Love endures all things – You can't kill love

LOVE NEVER ENDS

Paul summarizes the list positively and negatively

If I am going to love then I must:

- 1) Strive for the elimination of selfishness
- 2) Maintain an attitude of forgiveness
- 3) Prioritize the eternal objective

Loving looks and feels a whole lot like dying

## 1 John 3:11-13

*For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <sup>12</sup> We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.*

## 1 John 3:14-15

*<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

## 1 John 3:16-18

*By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*



# Jesus shows us what love is:

Jesus death on the cross is the supreme example of love because

- 1) It was the greatest possible sacrifice
- 2) It accomplished the greatest possible good
- 3) It was done for the highest possible motives

The greatest of these is LOVE

PRAYER – God, make me a loving person –  
make us a loving church. Amen