

Love in Action
Valentine's Day Sermon

1 Corinthians 13:13

February 11, 2018

1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I. Godly Entrustment (13) So now faith...abide

Psalm 56:4 In God, whose word I praise, **in God I trust**; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

A. Entrusting yourself to God gives you Access to Love! **1 John 4:8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

B. Entrusting yourself to God makes you Accountable to God! (**Romans 14:11-12**) for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

➤ The Unbelieving Dead will give an account before The Great White Throne Judgement.

Relied on Works Salvation: **Matthew 7:22-23** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

You worked at a Factory but was never hired!

➤ Those who Believe in Jesus will give their account at The Judgement Seat of Christ.

At the judgment seat of Christ, believers are **rewarded based on how faithfully they served Christ** (1 Corinthians 9:4-27; 2 Timothy 2:5).

Some of the things we might be judged on are:

- **How well we obeyed the Great Commission**
(Matthew 28:18-20),
- **How victorious we were over sin**
(Romans 6:1-4),
- **How well we controlled our tongues**
(James 3:1-9).

If you have not already done it you need to Place your Faith/Trust in Jesus Today!

II. Great Expectations (13) So now...**hope**...abide

In the Movie **FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING** from The Lord of The Ring Trilogy, The Fellowship was beginning to break apart. They were forced to take a road they did not want to travel. While there they faced many challenges and obstacles one of which left their Leader Gandalf taken from them as he fell into shadow. They barely escaped to find themselves inside the borders of the Elf Queen Galadriel. After she had spoken with them and tried to bring them comfort a discussion between Aragorn and Boromir went like this.

Aragorn speaking to Boromir: Take some rest.

These borders are well protected.

Boromir: I will find no rest here. I heard her voice inside my head. She spoke of my father and the fall of Gondor, and she said to me: "Even now, there is hope left. But I cannot see it. It is **long since we had any hope.**"

Christians should **never lose Hope!** In fact Christians are the only ones who have any real hope. Yet we worry about things that we have no control over.

Our Hope is not here in this lifetime. Yes we have a Purpose to fill while we are here. But we are to **trust that God** be forever with us as we complete our calling. Knowing that His Will is perfect.

We are The Body of Christ but we are also The Bride of Christ! One thing I have discovered doing marriage counseling is there is a **huge gap** in The expectations between the Bride and The Groom.

***List a few of the Expectations!**

If these are not **discovered and discussed** ahead of time they can lead to a broken marriage or even divorce.

Worry and doubt keeps us from our task. Neutralizes our witness and influence in the community. And separates us from those we love. Don't be a **Debbie Downer** or a **Donald Do Nothing**. Find your purpose and fulfill it through the power given you by The Holy Spirit. And rest in The Blessed Hope we have.

Titus 2:13 At the same time we wait for the blessed hope and the **glorious appearance** of our great God and savior Jesus Christ.

Psalm 130:7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

III. Grand Expressions (13) So now...and **love** abide these three; but the **greatest of these is love**.

Faith & Hope are **Temporal**, Love is Eternal!

The word for Love here is the word Agape!

The Greek word *agape* is often translated “love” in the New Testament. How is “agape love” different from other types of love? The essence of agape love is goodwill, benevolence, and willful delight in the object of love. Unlike our English word *love*, *agape* is not used in the New Testament to refer to romantic or sexual love. Nor does it refer to close friendship or brotherly love, for which the Greek word *philia* is used. Agape love involves **faithfulness**, **commitment**, and an **act of the will**. It is distinguished from the other types of love by its lofty moral nature and strong character. Agape love is beautifully described in **1 Corinthians 13**.

Love Is!

1. **Love is patient**,
2. **love is kind**.
3. **It does not envy**,

4. it does not **boast**,
5. it is not **proud**.
6. ⁵ It does not **dishonor** others,
7. it is not **self-seeking**,
8. it is not easily **angered**,
9. it keeps no **record** of wrongs.
10. ⁶ Love does **not delight** in evil
11. **but rejoices** with the **truth**.
12. ⁷ It always **protects**,
13. **always trusts**,
14. **always hopes**,
15. **always perseveres**.
16. ⁸ Love never **fails**.

Agape love moves beyond our emotions and engages our actions to express our Love to those we Love. This will look different depending on The Object of our Love. Parents, Spouse, Children, Friends, Neighbors...Enemy's (Matt 5:43-48)!

Agape love is always shown by what it does. God's love is displayed most clearly at the cross.

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the **great love** with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved

Praise Team Takes The Platform