

I Want to Know...
...What Love Is

*“Where the Rubber...
...Meets the Road”*

1 Corinthians 13

Love

Its Open Season on What the World Calls “Love”

- **Definitely a Disconnect on God’s View vs Worlds View**
- **The World Considers Love a Feeling**

“Only a Feeling?”

What Happens in a Marriage When...

- the feelings “just aren’t there?”
- money is tight
- the baby hasn’t slept for three days
- there are six months of cancer treatments

The World’s View of Love Is

- Unpredictable
- Unreliable

Love

God Considers Love More than a Feeling..

..but a Decision Backed by the Power of God (Agape)

God's Love is..

- **Predictable**
- **Reliable**

The Greatest Description of God in Bible

"God is Love" -1 John 4:8

The Greatest Description of a Disciple...

"the world will know you're my disciple by your love" -**John 13:35**

God's View of Love

(1) Love is God's nature.

I Jn 4:8 -He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

I Jn 4:16 -And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

(2) Godly love is giving, sacrificial love (Jn. 3:16).

I Jn 4:9 -In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

I Jn 3:16-17 - Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

3) Love is the greatest thing (1 Co. 13:13). "The greatest of these is love."

(4) Love is an evidence of being Christ's disciple.

John 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

(5) Love is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Ga. 5:22).

(6) Love is the first thing the Apostle mentioned concerning Christian living (Ep. 4:1-6).

Agape Love

- **Love Acts; it Expresses Itself**
- **Love Never Sits Still, Doing Nothing**
- **It is Never Dormant, Complacent, Inactive**
It Always Makes Itself Known
- **God Did Not Hide His Love for Us - John 3:16**
- **It is Impartial** – everyone who believes
- **It Knows No Limits** – God gave His only Son for us. He did not stop short of showing how much He loved us.

Love and the Christian

Paul Explained...

...Three Characteristics of Christian Love

...that Show Why It Is So Important in Ministry

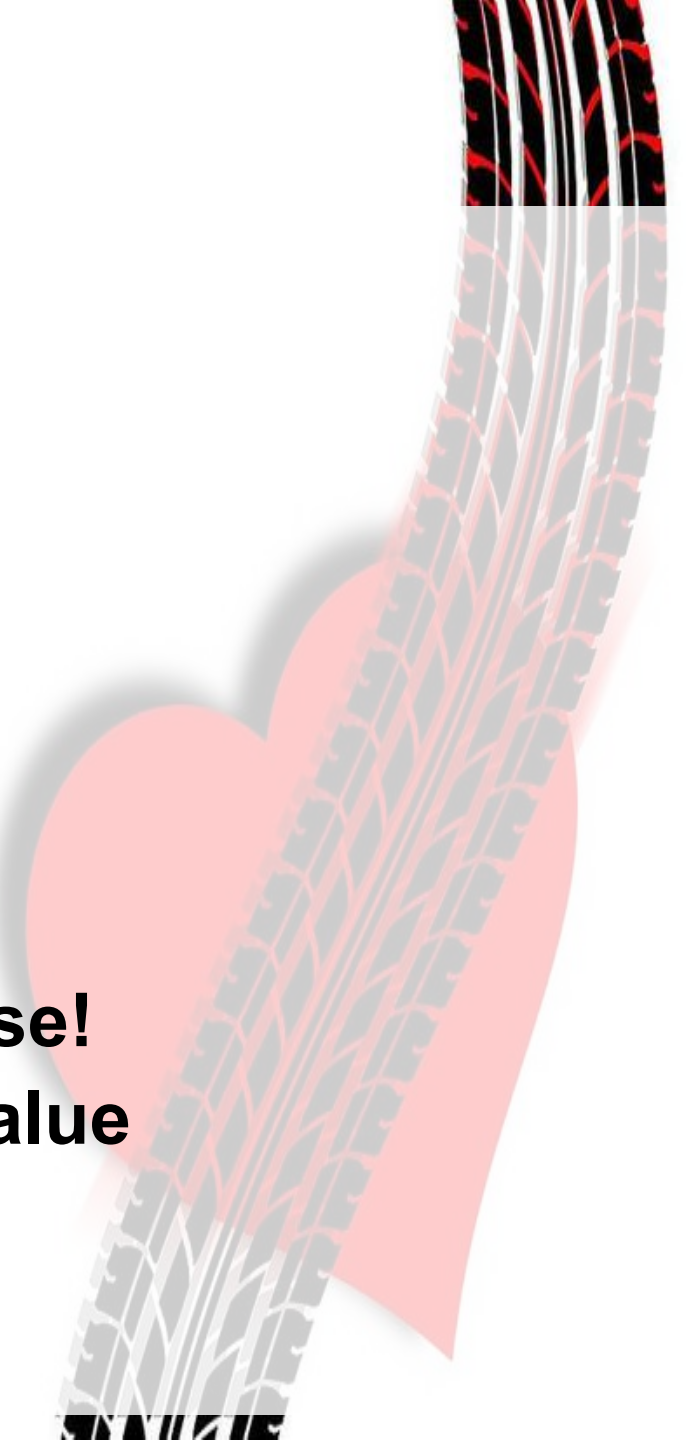
Love is Enriching (1-3)

Paul Names Five Spiritual Gifts:

- Tongues
- Prophecy
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Giving (*sacrifice*)

He Points Out That, Without Love,

- The Exercise of These Gifts Is *Nothing*
- Tongues Apart From Love is Just a Lot of Noise!
- It is Love that Enriches the Gift and Gives It Value



Love is Enriching (1-3)

**Ministry Without Love Cheapens Both the Minister and
...Those Who Are Touched By It...**

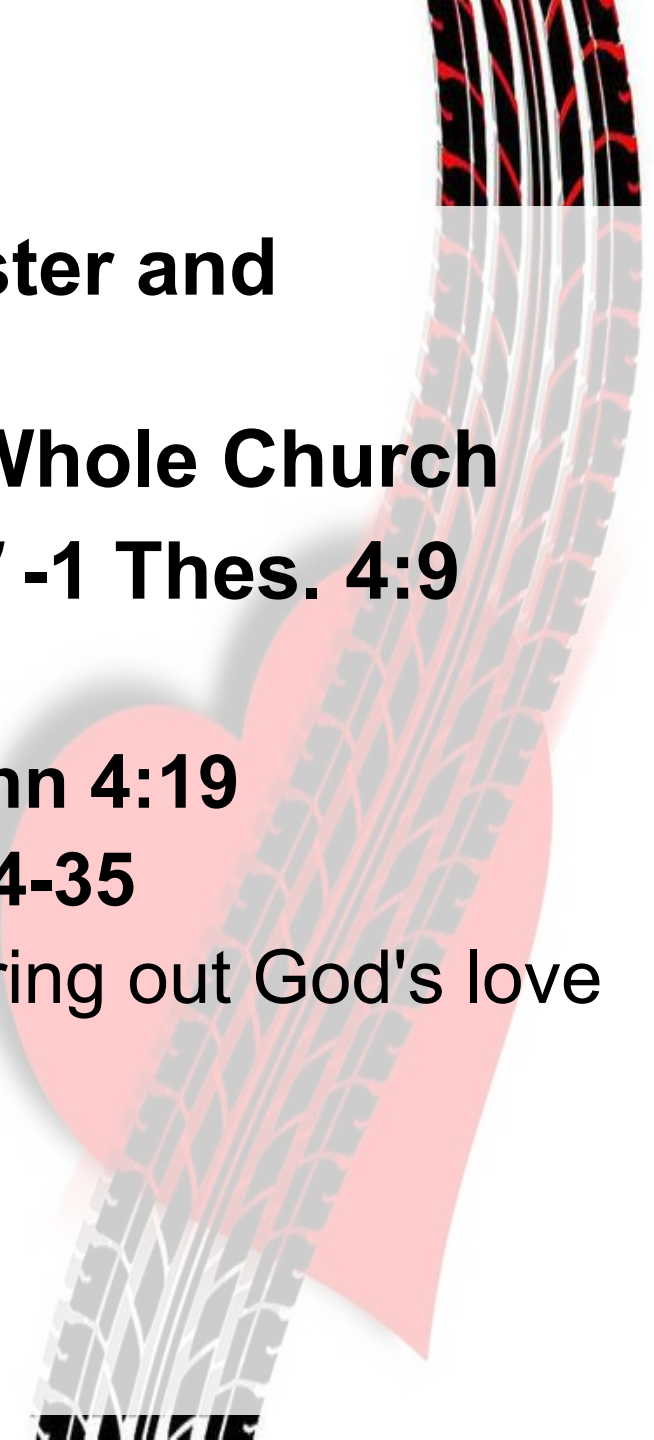
...But Ministry With Love Enriches the Whole Church

Christians are *"taught of God to love one another"* -1 Thes. 4:9

God the...

- **Father** taught us to love by sending His Son -1 John 4:19
- **Son** taught us to love by giving His life -John 13:34-35
- **Holy Spirit** teaches us to love one another by pouring out God's love in our hearts -Rom. 5:5

Love Enriches All That It Touches



Love is Edifying (4-7)

"Knowledge puffeth up, but love edifieth [builds up]" -1 Cor. 8:1

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts is the Edification of the Church
(1 Cor. 12:7; 14:3, 5, 12, 17, 26)

**This means we must not think of ourselves, but of others-
...and this demands love.**

The Corinthians were...

- impatient in the public meetings -1 Cor. 14:29-32
 - envying each other's gifts
 - were "puffed up" with pride -1 Cor. 4:6, 18-19; 5:2
- but love would remove pride/ self-vaunting/ replace it with a desire to promote others.**

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another" -Rom. 12:10

Love is Edifying (4-7)

Love is...

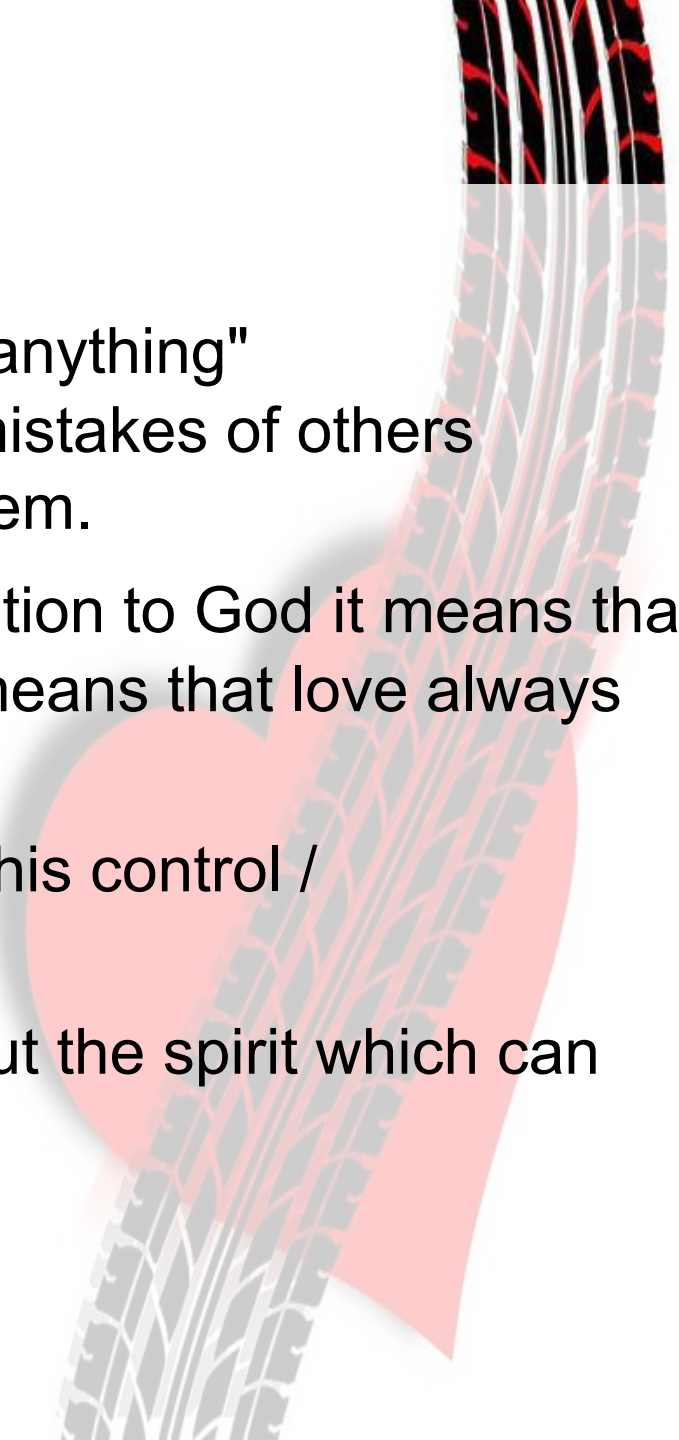
- **Patient**- Gk=patience with people/ not patience w- circumstances. Speaks of *the man who is wronged/ has the power to avenge himself but will not-*
- **Kind**- "*sweet to all*"
- **Knows No Envy**- Two kinds of envy. One covets the possessions of others. The other is worse. He grudges that others should have what he has not
- **Not Boastful**- True love with its own unworthiness than its own merit.
- **Not Proud**- The really great man never thinks of his own importance.
- **Not Rude**- Graciousness which never forgets to be Courteous/ politeness
- **Not Self-Seeking**- There are those in this world who are always thinking of what life owes them/ there are those who never forget what they owe to life.

Love is Edifying (4-7)

Love Always...

- **Protects**- It is possible that this may mean "love can cover anything"
 - Meaning it will never drag into the light of day the faults/ mistakes of others
 - Love would rather mend things than publicly displaying them.
- **Trusts**- This characteristic has a twofold meaning. (1) In relation to God it means that love takes God at his word. (2) In relation to our fellow men it means that love always believes the best about other people.
- **Hopes**- to expect to "knows" that God has everything under his control / rests in that promise. (Psalms 25)
- **Persevere**- not the spirit which can passively bear things, but the spirit which can bear and conquer. (Philippians 4:13)

Which Leads to the Next Point about Love



Love is Enduring (8-13)

Prophecy, Knowledge, and Tongues were Not Permanent Gifts

- Faith, Hope / Love Prepare/ Propel the Gifts
- The Gifts Are Necessary to Prepare Us for Heaven
- One Day We will be in Heaven and Have No Need of the Gifts
- Our Faith and Hope Shall Be Sight...
...But Love will be Experienced for Eternity

Love Carries Us To, Through, Over !!!



Notice all of the things that do not have the ability to keep the love of Christ from us

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-38

The Love of Christ is More Powerful than...

- Life itself, death cannot even keep it from us.
- Spiritual beings, even the most diabolic plot from Hell cannot” “
- Time itself, when time comes to an end the love of Christ will remain
- The greatest power on earth cannot keep it from us.
- The deepest of depths or the highest of heights cannot keep it from us
- All of creation, absolutely nothing can keep it from us.

