

1 Corinthians 13 - The Excellent Way

Chapter 12 ends with EARNESTLY DESIRE the higher gifts

- 1Co 12:31 ESV But **earnestly desire the higher gifts**. And I will show you a still **more excellent way**.

Chapter 13 describes the EXCELLENT WAY

Chapter 14 begins with Pursue LOVE And DESIRE

- 1Co 14:1-3 ESV **Pursue love**, and **earnestly desire the spiritual gifts**, especially that you may **prophesy**.

Love is the More Excellent Way (road - not replacement)

1Co 13:1-13 ESV If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am **a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal**. 2 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**. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, **I gain nothing**.

- This is not an argument against tongues, prophesy, word of knowledge, faith or sacrifice, it is an **argument FOR the motivation of love** in the exercise of these gifts.
- I.e if I speak in tongues and HAVE LOVE then I am NOT a noisy gong

Compassion was often mentioned when Jesus exercised spiritual gifts

- Mat 14:14 ESV When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and **he had compassion on them** and **healed their sick**.
- Mar 9:20-22 ESV And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, **have compassion on us and help us**."
- Luk 7:12-14 ESV As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And **when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her** and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

How the Lord describes love

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8a Love never ends

It seems as if love had been more evident, or practiced in this church that a lot of the problems they had to endure could have been avoided

1. **Love is patient** - *It is "slow to anger" - to be long spirited, that is, (objectively) forbearing or (subjectively) patient:*
2. **Love is kind** - *To show oneself useful, that is, act benevolently:*
3. **Love does not envy** - *To have warmth of feeling for or against: - to covet or boast; to brag*
4. **Love does not boast** - *Vaunteth not itself. Does not boast of superiority, nor is it inflated.*
5. **Love is not arrogant** - *In the primary sense of blowing; to inflate, that is, (figuratively) make proud (haughty)*
6. **Love is not rude** - *To be (that is, act) unbecoming. Does not behave itself unseemly*
7. **Love does not insist on its own way** - *Seeketh not her own. Is unselfish*
8. **Love is not irritable** - *To sharpen alongside, that is, (figuratively) to exasperate:*
9. **Love is not resentful** *To take an inventory that is (subjectively) depraved, or (objectively) injurious: Thinketh no evil... The idea is that love does not keep a record of wrongs*
10. **Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing** *Rejoiceth not in iniquity - is filled with sadness by wrongdoing of any kind*
11. **Love rejoices with the truth** *-(rejoices) To sympathize in gladness, congratulate*
12. **Love bears all things** - *To roof over, that is, (figuratively) to cover with silence (endure patiently) Bears up in spite of all things evil, and is not overcome.*
13. **Love believes all things** *-Is not distrustful and suspicious*
14. **Love hopes all things** *-To expect or confide - trust - is hopeful instead of despondent, and hopes for the best*
15. **Love endures all things** - *To stay under (behind), that is, remain; figuratively to undergo, that is, bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere:*
16. **Love never fails** - *To drop away - to be driven off course - to become ineffective*

The were lots of problems the Corinthians faced

Yes you may come behind in NO GIFT - but LOVE IS MISSING...

1Co 1:7 ESV so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- **Contentions / Quarreling:** 1Co 1:11 ESV For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is **quarreling** among you, my brothers.
- **Pride:** 1Co 1:29 ESV so that no human being might **boast** in the presence of God.
- **Carnality / Immaturity:** 1Co 3:1 ESV But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as **people of the flesh**, as infants in Christ.
- **Jealousy / Strife:** 1Co 3:3 ESV for you are still of the flesh. For while there is **jealousy** and **strife** among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?
- **Arrogance:** 1Co 4:7 ESV For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you **boast** as if you did not receive it? --- 1Co 4:18 ESV Some are **arrogant**, as though I were not coming to you.
- **Sexual Immorality:** 1Co 5:1 ESV It is actually reported that there is **sexual immorality** among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.
- **Wrong attitude toward sin:** 1Co 5:2 ESV And you are **arrogant!** Ought you not rather to

mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. & 1Co 5:6 ESV Your **boasting** is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

- **Lawsuits:** 1Co 6:1 ESV When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare **go to law before the unrighteous** instead of the saints?
- **Self Seeking:** 1Co 6:7 ESV To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? --- 1Co 10:24 ESV Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. --- 1Co 14:12 ESV So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.
- **Insensitive:** 1Co 8:1 ESV Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "**knowledge**" **puffs up**, but **love builds up**. & 1Co 8:11-12 ESV And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.
- **Stingy and Ungrateful:** 1Co 9:11 ESV If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?
- **Lust, idolatry, fornication, tempting God, murmuring:** 1Co 10:6-10 ESV Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.
- **Divisions:** 1Co 11:18 ESV For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,
- **Envy & Jealousy:** 1Co 12:15-16 ESV If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

Some say tongues is not for today based on this

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they **will pass away**; as for tongues, they **will cease**; as for knowledge, it **will pass away**.

- If prophecies & tongues have ceased, **then why is knowledge hanging around?**
- He is simply expressing the longevity of love (never fails) to gifts which will one day become unnecessary

The canon of scripture or the 2nd coming?

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but **when the perfect comes**, the partial will pass away.

The partial will pass away when the PERFECT COMES

- The issue is not that tongues and prophesy will pass away - this issue is what does “**When the perfect comes**” mean?
- Some say it is the canon of Scripture - now that we have the bible there are no more gifts
- I believe it is speaking of the 2nd coming of Christ.

Why?

Gifts are in place until the second coming

- 1Co 1:4-8 ESV I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge-- 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you-- 7 **so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ**, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Perfect means complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with G3588) completeness: - of full age, man, perfect.

He uses the growth into maturity concept even further

11 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. 12 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.

- 1Jn 3:2 ESV Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because **we shall see him as he is**.

The greatest is LOVE

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

Mat 5:43-48 ESV "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For **if you love those who love you**, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must **be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect**.