

Study of 1 Corinthians 13 – Feb. 2, 2022 – Week 1

Written by Paul, to the church. New Living Translation.

13:1 – “If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 - If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing.

3 - If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.”

3 ways we spend our time/energy:

Good ways. Valuable. Busy, but empty. Achieve, but worthless.

Unproductive... insignificant... fruitless. ♥ **bear much fruit**

1 – education. Learning. Words.

- Education is important. Not how we’ll make a lasting impact.
- Education → jobs ... are avenues to people ... we can love.

2 – knowledge of faith. Spirituality. Religion.

- Meaning in life. But it’s ultimately meaningless unless... love others.
- Cloistered life of contemplative prayer/study... gains us nothing.
 - We’re here to connect.

3 – service. Sacrifice. Giving to boast.

- Generosity is well intentioned. Want to be rich enough to give away \$.
- Philanthropist - gives \$/gifts to charities, helps people.
 - Change lives in a real way... love.

Love is the Great Commandment. It’s our highest calling.

1 Jn. 4:7 – “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.”

- “**not a people person.**” People get on your nerves. How do u love?
- **1 Jn. 4:20** - “If someone says, “I love God,” but **hates a fellow believer**, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?”
- **1 John 4:8** – “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

- Hearts needs a transplant. **Good news:** God's in transplant business.
 - **Ezek. 36:26** - "And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."
 - For You in 2022 may require us to pray for a transplant.

LOVE – but what kind of Love? 4 kinds of love:

Eros - Greek word for sensual / romantic love

Storge (STOR-jay) - family love; affectionate bond of parent-child, bro, sis.

Philia - from Greek term philos, meaning "beloved, dear ... a friend"; someone dearly loved; a trusted confidant; **brotherly love.**

Agape - highest type of love. It's God's love.

His immeasurable, incomparable love for us. Divine love.

Agape love is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure.

► **Unless we know God, have H.S. in us, we're incapable of Agape love.**

1 Jn. 4:16 – "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, & God in them."

- **Agape Love - a love for others growing out of God's love for me.**
 - **1 John 4:19** – "We love each other because He loved us first."
 - **Be a circle of love.** Let love flow thru us.
 - **1 John 4:17** – "Love has been perfected among us . . . because as He is, so are we in this world."
 - **As we grow & mature, God's love is perfected in us.**
 - **NIV puts it best:** "In this world we are like Jesus"
 - **John 13:34-35** – Jesus said: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."
 - God's love – demonstrated by Jesus - is our example.
 - **Agape love is our goal.** Don't stop at **Philia - brotherly love.**
 - Man's definition of love is conditional. Divorce. Swiss cheese.
 - God's love is unconditional. Till death. Forever. Unlimited.
 - God's love is sacrificial, and pure. Not Selfish.

- **Closing Thoughts:**
 - **Make love our motivation. God's love... for you in 2022**
 - **1 John 4:10-11** – “This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.”
 - **Love acts regardless . . . whether it's appreciated.**
 - **... whether it's reciprocated. Accepted. Acknowledged.**
 - Education is important. Generosity. Good deeds.
 - But ... we can go thru the motions, and have no emotion.
 - Let's evaluate our lives – are we like Jesus in this world?
 - Are we busy, but bankrupt?
- **The Message: 1 Cor. 13:3** – “no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.”

Song of the week – “The Proof of Your Love” by For King & Country
Stay positive. Test negative. Get Vaccinated. Love each other. 4 U in 22.