

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty
1 Corinthians 13
November 3, 2024

I. Introduction (1 John 4:7-8, 16, 20-21)

1 John 4:7-8 (NKJV) *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

Love is not God—that is idolatry

II. What is Love?

A. Types of love other than agapao

1. Epithumia – strong desire for another person or thing (not used in Bible)
2. Eros – romantic, sensual, passionate love (not used in Bible)
3. Storge – family love, sense of belonging, (only in Rom. 12:10 as compound)
4. Phileo – love shared between friends. (See John 21:15-17 as example).

B. Definition of Agapao

Keith - God's love is His purposeful, willful response toward humanity doing what brings Him pleasure and what is best for humankind. Our love is the purposeful obedient response that brings pleasure to both God and us.

C. Love is demonstrated by action – (James 2:16; 1 John 3:17, 4:20)

1 John 4:20 (NKJV) *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*

D. Love is active not passive

- Loving God requires steadfast attention and obedience
- Loving neighbor means being aware of what they need and doing what can to resolve the need

III. Love is (1 Cor. 13:1-8)

A. Spiritual gifts without love are annoying

- Tongues without love—merely noise
- Gifts of prophecy, knowledge and faith without love are non-existent
- Acts of charity and martyrdom are valueless without love

B. Attributes of Love – (partial listing—see other texts like Heb 12, John 15)

- Love waits—Love suffers long (Luke 18:7, 1 Thess. 5:14; James 5:7-8, 2 Pet. 3:9) – “to be patient in bearing the offences and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon
- Love’s action—love is kind - To be kind, obliging, willing to help or assist Complete Word Study Dict. –
- Love’s generosity—love does not envy - to burn with zeal, “to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger, to desire earnestly, pursue” Thayer’s
- Love’s humility--love does not parade itself - brag about self, conceited, boastful, we say exaggerate, overstating, etc.
 - o Love is not puffed up (1 Cor. 4:6, 18-20, 5:1-2, 8:1; Col. 2:18) - “to inflate, blow up, blow out, to cause to swell up” Thayer’s
- Love’s public face—love does not behave rudely (1 Cor. 7:36) - uncomely, indecent. To behave in an ugly, indecent, unseemly or unbecoming manner CWSN NT.
- Love’s essence—love does not seek its own (Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 12:30; Col. 3:1; 1 Pet. 3:10-12) - seek, search or look for; try, attempt, strive for one's own interest or advantage. Barclay Newman

- Love's disposition—love is not provoked (here and Acts 17:16) - to make sharp, to sharpen; to stimulate, spur on, urge; to irritate, provoke, rouse to anger; Thayer's
- Love's performance—love thinks no evil (keeps no record of wrong)-(Rom. 4:21-24; Phil. 4:8) - think--count, reckon, calculate, take into account; credit, place to one's account. Barclay Newman
 - o Love rejoices in [with the] truth not iniquity (1 Cor. 13:6; John 14:6; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; 2 Thess. 2:9-12) – rejoices - To rejoice together, to share in another's joy, CWSN NT
- Love's conduct—love bears all things (1 Pet. 4:8; 1 Cor. 9:12) – endure, put up with. Barclay Newman
 - o Love believes all things [1 John 5:5, 13] – faith. To believe, have faith in, trust CWSN NT
 - o Love hopes all things – (Matt. 12:21; Heb 11:1) - to *expect* or *confide* :- (have, thing) hope (-d) (for), trust. Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary (hereafter Strong's)
- Love's endurance—love endures all things (Matt. 12:21; Mark 13:13; James 1:12) – To remain under, to persevere, endure, sustain, bear up under, suffer, CWSN NT

C. The love of God is primarily fact and an act of the will (1 John 3:17)

IV. Moving to maturity through love (8–12)

- Love never fails –
- Prophecy will fail; Tongues will cease; Knowledge will fail
- Perfect carries the idea of maturity
 - 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (NLT2)** *Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! ⁹ Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! ¹⁰ But when full understanding comes, these partial things will become useless.*
- Child – [G3516] - from *né-*, not, and *épos* <G2031>, word. One who cannot speak, hence, an infant, child, baby without any definite limitation of age. - The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.
- Man
 - o This word is listed as the antonym/opposite in some lexicons for the word for child
 - o Paul is essentially telling the Corinthian Church to grow up
- 1 Corinthians 13:11 (YLT)** *When I was a babe, as a babe I was speaking, as a babe I was thinking, as a babe I was reasoning, and when I have become a man, I have made useless the things of the babe;*

13:12 –

- known face-to-face – we will see Him as He is
 - 1 John 3:2 (NKJV)** *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*
- know we know in part—and must be satisfied that we will only know in part no matter how much we know
 - o this does not mean we stop seeking and growing—we are to grow up into maturity
 - o it just means that no matter how mature we get—we will never be fully mature (Phil. 3:8-15)

V. The supremacy of love (13:13)

- No matter how great we are in any of the gifts—faith, hope and love are greater
 - o Of these—love is the greatest

VI. Challenge Questions

- In light of what love is how are you doing in personal relationships with Jesus (Matt. 22:36-38)?
- In light of what love is how are you doing in relationships with friends and family (Matt. 22:39-40)?
- In light of what love is how are we doing as a congregation—are we kind and inviting or harsh and driving people away (John 13:34-35)?