

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 7TH - 8TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

## NOISE & NOTHING (1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3) "HUMAN OR ANGELIC TONGUES"

The Gift of the Spirit that the Corinthians were abusing/misusing the most was speaking in tongues. Paul argued that the gift is good but that it had become elevated above the other gifts causing arrogance and chaos.

- In the chaos, **church services had become self-serving and incapable of reaching outsiders. In other words, "a noisy gong."**

## PROPHECY AND FAITH

Paul held prophecy (to declare a message of God) and faith in high esteem. He says one can "understand all mysteries and all knowledge" and "have all faith [to]...move mountains," but if they don't have love, it amounts to nothing.

- **When we study and minister, it should be to grow closer to God and love others more, not inflate our ego.**

## GIVING AND SUFFERING

We can give everything away and even suffer for good causes. However, if the desire isn't out of love for others but for accolades for ourselves, "[we] gain nothing."

- **There is nothing wrong with celebrating good works, but we must keep a finger on the pulse of our motives when doing good things.**

## SETTING ASIDE THE GOD OF SELF

If we are honest, **do we use the giftings of God and even do benevolent things for selfish reasons?** Paul's point is to encourage us to move away from selfish gain and focus on blessing others and honoring Jesus.

- **The god of our culture is self, but the Bible explicitly tells us to put God first and "outdo each other with honor."**

## TRUE LOVE IS ROOTED IN JESUS

**Without a relationship with Jesus, we're incapable of true love.** We are called to love Him first, then follow the second great command, "love your neighbor as yourself."

- **It's possible to work in spiritual gifts and do impressive things without being saved (Matthew 7:22-23) or loving people. But in the end, it comes to nothing.**

## LOVE IS... (1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7) A CORRUPTED WORD IN OUR SOCIETY

"Love" has become a very misused and misunderstood word. The Bible gives us many examples of true love and how it is demonstrated in relation to God, marriage, and children. Here, Paul gives us a great example of how to love all people.

- Remember, **altruism is a good bedrock definition of love.**

## LOVE IS PATIENT

Like God, we should be slow to judge and repay offenses. We don't ignore offense; we bear them.

## LOVE IS KIND

Treat others with gentleness and, if necessary, careful rebuke.

## LOVE DOES NOT ENVY

We're free to admire others, but we must not become jealous or resentful of what they have.

## LOVE DOESN'T BOAST OR ACT ARROGANTLY

Boasting in v4 is bragging without foundation. **We're to have an accurate view of ourselves, not an inflated one.** We're also to remember not to be arrogant because true Christians know **all success ultimately comes from God.**

- **If we truly love others, we will not act overly self-confident or think that we are more important than anyone else.**

## LOVE IS NOT RUDE

Rude essentially means a disregard for social customs others have adopted.

## LOVE IS NOT SELF-SEEKING

This doesn't mean we don't take care of ourselves, but that life is more than just our desires; it is putting the needs of others first.

## LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE (OR EASILY ANGERED)

This relates back to patience and James 1:19

## LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS

If we love people, we do not keep meticulous records of past offenses. **We are to forgive, but it is wise to remember things that may have happened so we can help others and keep ourselves and others safe.**

- This boils down to giving people the opportunity to correct their wrongs and move forward.

## "NO JOY IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS..."

Now here is where the world gets it wrong. Not only do people who truly love find "no joy" in evil things, they rejoice in "truth."

- **The Bible lays out the standard of righteousness and is the Word of God or the truth. The only way to truly be loved, and to love others, is through the lens of the Bible.**

## BEARS, BELIEVES, HOPES, AND ENDURES

Bear here means to protect. **Love doesn't seek to embarrass or expose but to help.**

- **Love gives the benefit of the doubt** but doesn't require us to trust if that basis of trust has been destroyed.
- **Love is optimistic**, and in that, optimism "endures all things" because it **seeks the best for other people.**

## FOREVER (1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-13)

### "LOVE NEVER ENDS"

Paul tells the church that when they fall in love with God and others, they're participating in something eternal because "God is love" (1 John 4).

- In contrast, all other gifts and abilities are temporary. Prophecy, tongues, and even the gift of knowledge will not carry over into eternity because we will no longer need them.

### WE ONLY "KNOW IN PART"

The knowledge of the Word and the experience we have walking in a relationship with Jesus only gives us a partial understanding of God and the magnitude of being with Him.

- When "the perfect comes the partial will come to an end." This means **when Jesus returns, we will have a complete understanding and experience with God.**

### WE ARE TO BE MATURING

Paul uses two analogies to emphasize an eternity in God's love. First, he says that when we were children, we did childish things out of ignorance and immaturity, but **eventually, we grow up and "put aside childish things."**

- Just like we're maturing biologically, **we should be growing in thought, actions, and giftings until Christ returns.**

### THE GIFTS AS A REFLECTION

The second analogy compares the Gifts of the Spirit to a reflection in a mirror versus looking at someone face to face.

- **Though we get a glimpse of God through the Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit in our lives, we can look forward to the day when we will see Him face to face and "know [Him] fully, as [we] are fully known."**

### "THESE THREE REMAIN..."

Though faith and hope are important in this life, they will not transfer over into the afterlife. Only love will last forever, and God is the embodiment of love.

- **Our faith saves us, and we have the hope of heaven with God, but faith and hope are impossible without loving God and loving others.**

### MOTIVES

- We often think about what we are doing, but are we taking the time to explore **why** we do things?
- Do we understand that God knows our motives and sees the depths of our hearts? **Even if we impress everyone, if our true desires are not to love God and others more, we ultimately lose.**

### LOVE IS...

- Can we insert our names into 1 Corinthians 13:4-7? Are we **patient** and **kind**? Are we **envious**, **arrogant**, **rude**, or **self-serving**? Do we **hold people's pasts against them**? Do we **love righteousness and truth and despise evil**? Does our love **endure**?
- **Love like this is a supernatural gift from God that we seek and grow into.**

### PURSUING ETERNAL THINGS

- This life is temporary, but unfortunately, many people aren't living like they will die. **Death is certain, and accountability is as well. What are we living for?**
- If we even remotely understand this, we must pursue our Creator. God is pure love, and only through Him can we be saved, changed, and a vessel for love.

### WE NEED THIS, AND SO DOES...

- It is only in relationship with Jesus that we can experience real love. In this love, we feel **secure**, **valued**, and **empowered** to live an honorable life.
- It's not only about us. **We're to display the love of Christ so others can experience it too. Everyone needs true, biblical love, not the twisted version the world offers.**