

“Love Matters”

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12 Paul informs the Corinthian church about the importance of spiritual gifts and their place within the body of Christ. But in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 Paul desires to inform the Corinthian church of the error of their ways in their lack and inability to be gifted but lack love each other.

Verse 1: Paul encourages the believers at Corinth that he himself has gifts and that there is nothing wrong with being gifted. However, there is a problem when a believer is gifted but lacks the key Christian component which is love for the brethren.

- 1) Charity-benevolent goodwill toward or love for humanity.
- 2) Paul compares a believer who lacks love to a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. Not only does it create a bad sound but it is also unproductive.
- 3) As a believer our speech should match our conduct/action.

Verse 2: Paul acknowledged three prominent gifts that the Corinthian church possessed and were pursuing after. They made the possession and pursuit after spiritual gifts more important than living out the Christian life.

- 1) Paul mentions three gifts: Tongues, Prophecy, Understanding Mysteries, All Knowledge, and All Faith.
- 2) Tongues means “language”. The ability to communicate the gospel in other languages. (Acts 2:11, Revelation 5:9) But also a supernatural language by way a believer communicates to God. Tongues of angels suggests it is not a human language.
- 3) When Paul mentions having “All Faith” he is referring to Matthew 17:20.
- 4) Although it is great to possess these gifts if the believer does not possess love he or she could use the gift to cause damage rather than edify the body of Christ.
- 5) Paul informs them that without love they lack the key component to edify the body of Christ with their spiritual gifts.

Verse 3: There is a type of love that we as the believers in God should possess and extend to our brothers and sisters in Christ because God first extended it to us.

- 1) **Eros**-a love based off of touch and feeling. **Storge**- a love based off of family connection. **Phileo**-a brotherly love where we get our word “Philadelphia”. **Agape**-a self-denial love; they type of love that God has for us.
- 2) If we do not possess love we can be doing all of the right things for the wrong reasons. Its possible to give to the poor and needy for self-validation, public perception, public acceptance, or public publicity.
- 3) In the end if we do all of these things not because of love it ultimately profits us nothing.