

SERMON NOTES

A Life of Love: Living for What Matters and Lasts

1 Corinthians 13:1–13 | Matt Green | October 11, 2020

Spiritual Gifts Without Love Gain Nothing (13:1–2)

- Tongues, knowledge, prophecy, faith, etc. are all God's good gift
- However, they are valuable only as they are practiced in love

Generosity Without Love Gains Nothing (13:3)

- Give away all I have = bit-by-bit sharing with others
- Deliver up my body "that I may boast" vs. "to be burned"
 - "To be burned": Common reading, probably arose after martyrdom by fire became prominent
 - "That I may boast": More likely original, possibly referring to selling oneself as a slave for the good of others
- Such generosity is valuable only if practiced in love

The Nature of Love (13:4–7)

- Love's passive and active sides
 - Passive: Love shows enduring patience
 - Active: Love acts benevolently (is kind)
- Love is not focused on self
- Love reflects God's nature

1 CORINTHIANS 13: A LIFE OF LOVE

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The Enduring Nature of Love (13:8–12)

- Love never ends/fails/collapses
- Prophecies, tongues, knowledge, etc. are all limited
- One day, they will no longer be needed
- Love, which will endure, should be our focus

Love: The Greatest (13:13)

- Faith, hope, and love: The great three
 - We are saved by grace through *faith*
 - We live in *hope* of Christ's return and being with Him forever
 - Both faith and hope are rooted in *love*
- Faith and hope are great realities of this age
 - But, one day, our faith will be made sight
 - One day, our hope will be fulfilled
- Love endures forever

“Emotion has its value when excited by Christian realities—so has intellect—so has energy—so has sacrifice; but the one thing needful is love. It is only when love rules the use of the gifts, and indeed compels us to use them for the common good, that they can properly be called Christian. And what is love? A great theologian has defined it as the identification of ourselves with God’s interest in others.”

— JAMES DENNEY (SCOTTISH THEOLOGIAN, 1856–1917)

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today