



1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

*Paul has just finished a list of gifts of the Spirit in the previous chapter. **Reread 1 Corinthians 12:4-11** to review. How does Paul connect the teachings on gifts to love?*

Are the gifts that the Spirit blesses us with simply made better with love? Are they still of some use? How vital is love to the life of a Christian?

Without looking ahead and referring to the following verses, how would you define love? What does it look like? What does it do?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Is love the same thing as kindness or patience? How is love different? How can we better understand love as greater than any one of these attributes?

What does it look like when in love we don't insist on our own way? What does it look like to rejoice in the truth?

What do you think is the hardest part of this list to live out? What makes truly loving others the most difficult?

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. **13** So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

What gifts will pass away? What gifts are permanent?

When will we all see clearly and know fully? What will bring about that change?

*God's love for us never ends. It is not like the "love" that comes and goes in this world. **Read Romans 8:31-39** and discuss his everlasting love.*

1 John 3:11-18

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. **13** Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. **17** But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Why do you think the John writes, "Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you."?

What clear example of love is given in this passage?

*Were we deserving of Christ's love when he laid down his life for us? **Read Romans 5:7-8** for an answer. Should we only love those whom we think "deserve" it?*

How can you apply these Scriptures to your life?