

THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD - 11/01/20

TEXT- 1 Cor. 13:1-13

1 Cor 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but *the greatest of these is charity.*

Mat 22:37-40 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

INTRO- What is the supreme good? Charity even more than Faith

1 Co 13:2 *And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*

Psa 142:4 *I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.*

Christians were known for their love

→ **Jesus said - John 13:35** *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Love the lost

Love our enemies

→ **Peter stated - 1 Pe 4:8** *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*

→ **John said - 1 Jn 4:16** *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God. . .*

→ **Paul said - Rom 13:10** *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

I. Love Contrasted

A. With eloquence

1 Co 13:1 *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

B. With prophecy

C. With mysteries

D. With knowledge

E. With faith

F. With benevolence

G. With martyrdom – Sacrifice is worthless without love

Love is a universal language understood by all

II. Love Analyzed – The spectrum of love

A. Patience - suffereth long

B. Kindness - is kind

C. Generosity - Love envieth not

D. Humility - not puffed up, vaunteth not self

E. Courtesy - Not behave unseemly - Good etiquette

F. Unselfishness - Seeketh not own

Jer 45:5 *And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.*

G. Good Temper - Not easily provoked

Two types of sin:

1. Sins of flesh - Prodigal Son

2. Sins of disposition - Elder Son

H. Purity - Thinketh no evil - Believe in others

Self-restraint in exposing the weaknesses of others

I. Sincerity - Rejoiceth in the truth

1 John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

III. Love Defended

Love Lasts

Prophecies fail

Tongues cease

Knowledge vanishes away

Know in part

Prophecy in part

- Love Your Parents

Mat 19:19 *Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

- Love Your Neighbor

John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

- Love Your Children

- Love Your Enemies

Luke 6:27 *But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,*

How Do We Show Our Love?

1. Serve one another

2. Submit to one another

3. Sacrifice for one another

4. Pray for one another

5. Forgive one another

6. Loyalty - stand by them

Gal 5:13 *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

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