

# The Challenge of Love

Matt. 22:36-40

## I Cor. 13

- 1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 And if I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- 3 And if I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

# I Cor. 13

- 4 Love suffereth long, *and* is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
- 5 doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil;
- 6 rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth;
- 7 beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- 8 Love never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall be done away; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall be done away.

## I Cor. 13

- 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part;
- 10 but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away.
- 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things.
- **12** For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known.
- 13 But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

# *Love is Longsuffering*

- Love is longsuffering → patient with people.
- Long-tempered in the face of provocation.
- Consider:
  - God is longsuffering. (Gen. 6:3; I Pet. 3:20)
  - Jesus is longsuffering. (Lk. 23:34; I Tim. 1:16)
  - We are to be longsuffering.
- I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; (Eph. 4:1-2)

## ***Love is Kind (I Cor. 13:4)***

- Kindness → good, compassionate, gentle, friendly, giving, tender-hearted; etc.
  - Prov. 19:22 → “that which makes a man to be desired is his kindness...” (cf. II Pet. 1:7)
  - Examples of kindness:
    - The good Samaritan → Lk. 10:33-35
    - Dorcas → devoted to good works and acts of charity. (Acts 9:36,39)
    - Onesiphorus → He often refreshed me. (II Tim. 1:16)
    - Jesus → Matt. 9:36 → moved with compassion. (cf. Titus 3:4)

# ***Love Is Not Envious (1 Cor. 13:4)***

- Love does not feel displeasure, anger, resentment over the good fortune of others.
  - Does not become bitter, spiteful -- “the green-eyed monster”
    - Envy is the rottenness of the bones. (Prov. 14:30)
    - Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy? (Prov. 27:4)
- Consider envy in the lives of...
  - Joseph’s brothers. (Gen. 37:3-4,11)
  - Saul. (1 Sam. 18:6-7,9)
  - The enemies of Jesus were envious. (Matt. 27:18)
- Love rejoices in the good fortune, success of others. (1 Cor. 12:26)

# ***Love Is Not Boastful (1 Cor. 13:4)***

- Love is not concerned with drawing the attention or applause of others. (Matt. 6:1-2; 23:5)
  - Does not vaunt itself – does not show off.
  - Luke 18:9-11 → the boastful Pharisee
  - Jeremiah 9:23-24 →
    - Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”



## ***Love Is Not Arrogant (1 Cor. 13:4)***

- Love is not “puffed up” (KJV); does not have an inflated view of self; but is modest and humble.
  - Pride in the lives of Bible characters:
    - Dan. 4:30 → The king spake and said, Is not this great Babylon, which I have built for the royal dwelling-place, by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?
    - Acts 12:22 → And the people shouted, *saying*, The voice of a god, and not of a man.
    - Esther 6:7 → So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor? Now Haman said in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?
- How God sees pride → Prov. 6:16-17 → “There are six things which Jehovah hateth; Yea, seven which are an abomination unto him: 17 Haughty eyes...”

# ***The Challenge of Love...***

- ***Love Does Not Behave Itself Unseemly (1 Cor. 13:5)***
  - Love is not rude or vulgar. Is courteous, polite.
  - The words of Paul in Acts 26:25 → “...most noble Festus...”
  - 1 Pet. 3:8 → “...be courteous...”
- ***Love Seeketh Not Her Own (1 Cor. 13:5)***
  - Is not selfish; does not have to get its own way. Not focused on self; looking out for #1.
  - 1 Cor. 10:24 → Do not seek your own advantage, but the advantage of the other person. (NRSV)
  - Those who exemplified this trait of love:
    - Paul → Phil. 1:24 – to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.
    - Timothy → Phil. 2:19-22 – care for your state
    - Jesus → Phil. 2:5 ff – look not every man on his own things.

# The Challenge of Love

- ***Love is not easily provoked (1 Cor. 13:5)***
  - Infuriated, enraged, aroused to anger.
  - The example of Jesus → 1 Pet. 2:22-23
- ***Love thinketh no evil. (1 Cor. 13:5)***
  - Keeps no record of wrongs (NIV)
  - Does not keep a “sinned against” / “accounts settled” ledger.
  - Love seeks to forgive.
    - Joseph. (Gen. 45:4-9)
    - God. (Heb. 8:12)
    - Christians. (Eph. 4:31-32)

## The Challenge of Love

- ***Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in truth. (I Cor. 13:6)***
  - Takes no delight in evil or the success of evil; but take pleasure in what is right and true. (III Jn. 4)
- ***Love bears all things. (I Cor. 13:6)***
  - Is patient in the face of adverse circumstances.
  - Heb. 10:36 → Ye have need of patience...
- ***Love believes all things. (I Cor. 13:6)***
  - Is eager to believe the best; to put the best construction on ambiguous circumstances.
- ***Love hopes all things. (I Cor. 13:6)***
  - Has an optimistic outlook – is adverse to despair.
  - Hopes for the best in regard to others.
- ***Love endures all things. (I Cor. 13:7)***
  - A military term – to repel endure the assault of the enemy; to hold its ground. (cf. II Tim. 3:12; I Cor. 15:58)