

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Lessons from 1 Corinthians

1 Cor. 13:1-8

In 1 Corinthians 12-14, Paul reviews spiritual gifts and the proper use of those gifts within the church. In chapter 12, we looked at basic truths regarding spiritual gifts and now look at a key message regarding the use of spiritual gifts — Are we people that love?

1. Christians are commanded to love. (John 13:34-35, 15:12-13; Eph. 5:1-2; Col. 3:14)

- our gifts are NOTHING without love

Do not miss this point. This is not a stand alone chapter on love. It is written in the context of a discussion on spiritual gifts. If we do not love, these gifts mean nothing.

- examine yourself to see if you are walking in love

2. The characteristics of love are:

- Patient

Suffers long; not with a “short fuse”; does not easily lose patience/temper with others; tolerant of others because you realize we all have faults

- Kind

Honoring; respectful; gentle; warm; caring

- Is not envious or jealous

Does not resent the success of others; does not compare and wonder why you do not have; is not only interested in self

- Does not brag or promote itself

Vaunteth not itself; not big headed but big hearted; more love = less boasting; realization that all you have/are is from God

- Is not arrogant or prideful

More power centered than praise centered; seeing yourself exempt from spiritual standards; focusing on power, position; a lack of caring for others (in your heart)

- Is not rude and does not act unbecomingly

Not unseemly; no dishonoring; tells it like it is and seemingly delights in hurting others; not courteous, gracious, or polite

- Does not seek its own way

Does not demand their rights; not self absorbed; not possessive; defers to others

- Is not provoked

Not irritable, touchy, easily angered; not having emotional outbursts

- Does not dwell on a wrong suffered and is not resentful

Not resentful; does not keep a bookkeeping record of wrongs; does not bring up past offenses

- Does not rejoice in sin and unrighteousness

Love is righteous; does not enjoy hearing of sin and tragedy, or hearing of someone's misfortune.

- Rejoices in the Truth

Welcomes truth; rejoices in what is true and good

- Bears all things

"To roof over"; to cover with silence, a covering, a protection; 1Peter 4:8; does not broadcast bad news, protects others; love is not picky; love is not one to criticize

- Believes in and trusts

Gives the benefit of the doubt; allows for circumstances; waits and does not judge; sees potential and believes in others

- Hopes

Love has a positive, forward look; does not give up on people; does not lose faith in the person

- Endures and perseveres

Holding a position at all costs, even unto death; does not give up; does not stop

*** STOP AND TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK..... Look at all the characteristics of love. This is how we are to be in the Body. Review John 13:34-35. Review 1 Cor. 13:1-3. Love!!!**

3. The true source of love is from God in us.

- God is love (1 John 4:8)

- The fruit of Spirit is love (Gal. 5:22-23)

—> The mark of a Christian is God's love. We need to pray to have God's care and love in our heart and to have His love control us.