

1 CORINTHIANS

The Gospel
in Community

WHEN FAITH AND LIFE COLLIDE

Study 17

THE GOSPEL AND LOVE

I Corinthians 13

THE PRIMACY OF LOVE

Gift list

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV) 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.

A silhouette of a person with their head bowed, set against a dark background with a light gradient. The person is wearing a blue shirt. The text "Spiritual Nothing" is overlaid in white.

Spiritual Nothing

Immensely multi-gifted

Over confident

Sophisticated

Disparaged even Paul

Divided and polarized

**In danger of influence from
previous religious affiliations**



THE ISSUE

Mistake gifts and talents for character



1 John 4:7 (ESV) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

A man with white hair, wearing a black academic gown with a red collar, is speaking and gesturing with his right hand. He is surrounded by an audience of people, some of whom are wearing blue jackets. The scene appears to be a formal event or lecture.

**WHY GOD ALLOW HIS POWER TO WORK
THROUGH THESE PEOPLE?**

THE PRIMACY OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV) 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.

Virtue list

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.

2 Corinthians 8:7-8 (ESV) But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV) 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus

Thinking about His costly grace, until the gospel changes you from the heart into generous people





The poor suffer-guilt

Command-Punish


Moralistic
Behaviour change



Grace

Gospel change

ATONEMENT AND INSIDE OUT NATURE



God saves me by
grace
I respond to that grace
obey, out of inner joy
and gratitude

Religion is outside in
good deeds and follow
the moral rules in our
external behavior, God
will come into our hearts,
bless us, and give us
salvation

WHAT IS LOVE?

15 verbs in 3 verses

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ESV) 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.

1. Love is dynamic and active, not something static.
2. Love is not a feeling. While praising love, Paul is blaming the Corinthians at the same time.
3. Love is not a word, but a way of life. It is shown by words, it has to be shown.
4. It can be defined only by what it does and does not do.

THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH IS

Impatient and unkind; Envious or boastful; Arrogant
Rude. Insist on its own way; Irritable Resentful; Rejoice
at wrongdoing, but does not rejoice with the truth. 7
Does not bears all things, nor believes all things, nor
hopes all things, nor endures all things.

WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE?

Love is patient and Kind

MAKRO-THYMEŌ

Macro

Large/ Long

thymos,

Intense anger
Burning Rage

Act of holding back one's anger.



WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE?

Love is patient and Kind



Passive

Enduring difficult people

Injuries without seeking retaliation

Injustice or insults



Active

Active goodness on their behalf

Tender heart and forgiveness that God has shown to us in Christ

Everyone carries a heavy load.

TERTULLIAN ON WHAT CHRISTIANS WERE CALLED IN 2ND CENTURY AD



“chrestiani”

Mildness or kindness

Gk “Useful”

Seeks ways to be useful to others

Kindness of Christians in 2nd Century AD



Toxic Person

Boastful

Prideful

Controlling

Manipulative

Negative

Rude

Liar

Self centered



— ” —

**The less you
respond to negative
people, the more
powerful your life
will become.**

— ” —

ROBERT E. BAINE, JR.





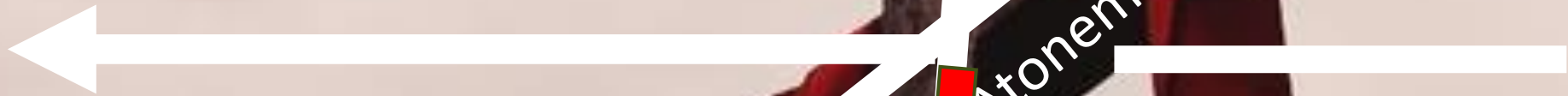
PAUL'S EXAMPLE

1 Corinthians 9:19-20 (ESV) For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

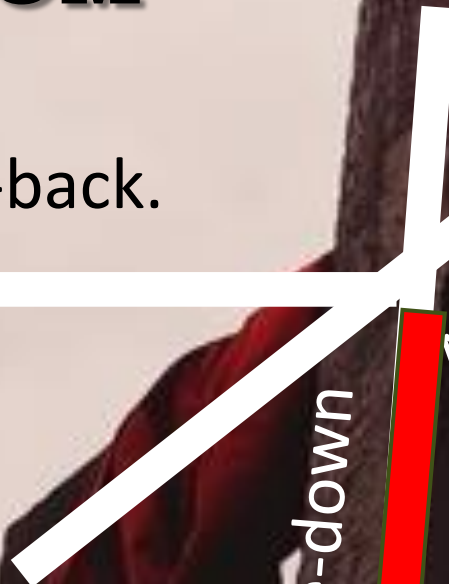
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THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Atonement/inside-out



Incarnation/upside-down



Kindness if –upside
down
Serving the undeserved



HOW DO I DO THIS?


John 12:25-26 (ESV) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

LOVING IS DYING TO SELF

- My strong craving for a trouble-free life must die.
- My need for an uninterrupted schedule must die.
- My demand that frustrations and interference get out of my way must die.

THE MOTIVE –GOD’S PASSION BECOMES YOURS

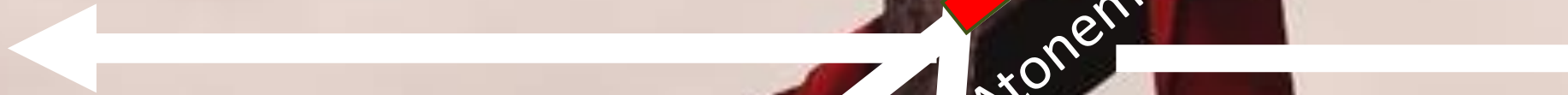
Romans 2:4 (ESV) Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to **repentance**



There is a purpose
Not that they deserve it

THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



1 John 4:7 (ESV)
Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.



Incarnation/upside-down



Atonement/inside-out



Moral Obligation

Failure to see your own situation





2 Peter 3:9-10 (ESV) he Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,



THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Romans 12: 19b

Vengeance is mine, I
will repay, says the
Lord.”

Incarnation/upside-down



Atonement/inside-out



WHAT LOVE IS NOT....

- Envy
- Boast
- Arrogant
- Insist on its own way;
- Irritable
- Resentful;
- Rejoice at wrong doing,

WHAT LOVE IS

- bears all things,
- believes all things,
- hopes all things,
- endures all things..
- rejoices with the truth

is “resentful contemplation of
a more fortunate person.”

ENVY



is “resentful contemplation of a more fortunate person.”

ENVY



ASSOCIATED WITH STRIFE

1 Corinthians 3:4 (ESV) For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?



JEALOUSY

we fear losing a relationship ...
that we already have.”



BOASTFUL

Self-centered actions in which there is an inordinate desire to call attention to oneself.

Showy Spiritual gifts –healing , miracles, Prophecy , Tongues

Knowledge, wisdom

Superior leaders ..looked down on Paul



Divided and polarized



IS NOT PROUD

Physioutai

6 out of 7 occurrence of this verb is in
Corinthians



RUDE -SHAMEFUL

IT DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY;

1 Corinthians 10:24-25 (ESV) Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

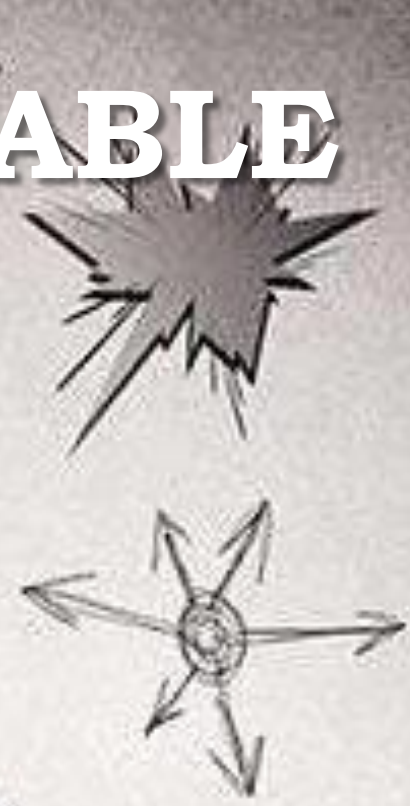
It seeks the good of many not just the comfort of self
does not just seek its own advantage



“Cure selfishness, and
you plant a Garden of
Eden”

RC Lenski

IT IS NOT IRRITABLE



Love does not go into fits of anger, nor does it provoke anger in others with its irritability



**REVENGE IS A DISH BEST
SERVED COLD**

WE ARE THE JUDGE

**USURP GOD'S ROLE
WITHOUT HIS WISDOM
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**



THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Incarnation/upside-down



Atonement/inside-out





LOVE AND THE TRUTH

1 Corinthians 13:6
(ESV) It does not
rejoice at wrong
doing, but rejoices
with the truth.



DEFENDING MY TRUTH



Love takes no pleasure in
someone else's failure,
Love delights in integrity
and reality.

If the situation is bad, love
wants to help;

If the situation is good, love
wants to celebrate.

THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Atonement/inside-out

Incarnation/upside-down

Person who has placed everything in the hands of God has no need to fear, or to hide from, the truth. For God already knows it and has accepted the believer as he or she is



LOVE HAS NO LIMITS

1 Corinthians 13:7 (ESV) Love bears all things,
believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never tires of support, never loses faith, never
exhausts hope, never gives up.

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30700

Mfg. Date

09/07/2013

Exp. Date

08/07/2016

THE PERMANENCE OF LOVE



1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (ESV) 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.

WHAT DOES PERFECT MEAN?

Consummated Kingdom

The obsolescence of current spiritual gifts which are designed for current age

Complete Canon of Scripture

The Corinthians would not have understood what Paul was talking about..the concept of the canon

The church after the completion of the canon 300 years later would have more knowledge than Paul

The church today is not more matured than the one in Paul's time

ILLUSTRATION

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 (ESV) 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.



FACE TO FACE

Revelation 22:4-5 (ESV) They will **see his face**, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

WHAT DOES PERFECT MEAN?

Consummated Kingdom

CONCLUSION

1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV) So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Faith

Hope

Love

So now faith, hope, and
love abide, these three;
but the greatest of
these is love.

Remain-Persists into the new
heavens and new earth

Faith

Hope

Love

So now faith, hope, and
love abide, these three;
but the greatest of
these is love.

Only Persists into the new
heavens and new earth

CONTEXT

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (ESV) 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.

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV) 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.

Faith

Hope

Love

So now faith, hope,
and love abide

Remain-Persists into the new
heavens and new earth

IMPLICATION

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV) Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

Love is that thing which, if a church has it, it doesn't really need much else, and if it doesn't have it, whatever else it has doesn't really matter very much".

Haddon Robinson