

1 Corinthians 34 – 13:1-8

The Excellence of Charity

1. 12:31 – The More Excellent Way

- a. The best gifts would be the apostles, prophets, teachers because of 1 Cor 14:1-5
- b. Knowing God's will is always more excellent - (law) Rom 2:18, 3:1-2
- c. There is something excellent about the mystery of Christ – Phil 1:10, 3:8, Eph 3:18
- d. Charity is a more excellent way than all spiritual giftings – 1 Cor 12:31, 13:13

2. When Love is Wrong – when it is the reverse of 1 Cor 13:6

- a. Love *def*~ An affection for something with pleasing qualities, beauty, or worth
- b. People find sin more pleasurable than God – they want love without the hate.
- c. The wrong concept of love = not disagreeing, dividing, or disciplining
- d. God is love (yes, 1 John 4:8), but he is also holy and hates things - Ps 99:9, Eph 5:6
- e. What you love reflects your character – Prov 8:13, 8:36, 13:24
- f. Love can be for greed, selfishness, pride – John 3:19, 12:43, 2 Tim 4:10, 1 John 2:15
- g. Love is blind, but charity looks upon others - 1 Cor 8:1-3, Phil 2:2-4

3. Defining Charity

- a. What is charity? – Let the Bible define it: Rom 14:15,19,21, 15:2-3
- b. Charity – *def*~ love of seeing the truth benefit others – Eph 4:15
- c. Only believers can exhibit this charity because it requires the truth – 1 Cor 13:6
- d. The agape/phileo distinction is a myth; love is correct in John 21.
- e. “Charity” is correct in 1 Cor 13:5-6. Compare with Luke 6:32.

4. 13:1-3 – Without Charity

- a. The love of skill: ability without charity is only entertainment – 1 Cor 13:1
- b. The love of wisdom: understanding without charity is nothing – 1 Cor 13:2
- c. The love of noble cause: sacrifice without charity is not profitable – 1 Cor 13:3
- d. Jesus said to sell all to have treasure in heaven, but charity excels - Mat 19:21

5. 13:4-8 – Attributes of Charity

- a. Charity comes from the Spirit bearing its fruit in you - Gal 5:22-23
- b. Charity suffers long while others come to an understanding - 2 Tim 2:24-26
- c. Charity is kind when others ridicule them for their beliefs - Titus 3:2-4
- d. Charity does not behave unseemly but as a servant of righteousness - Eph 5:8-9
- e. Charity does not seek her own, but the things of Christ - Phil 2:20-21
- f. Charity rejoices not in iniquity, because God does not - Rom 1:18,
- g. Charity rejoices in the truth, because it is the will and the word of God - 1 Tim 2:4
- h. Charity bears all things, because Christ strengthens us – Phil 4:11-14