

## 1Corinthians – Week 50

### I. Review: Agape’s supernatural behavior (1Cor. 13:1-6)

#### A. Love’s Importance (vv. 1-3)

- i. If love is absent, that soul, no matter what great abilities he possesses, would be nothing in the eyes of the Lord, nor will he gain anything from the Lord.

#### B. Love’s Behavior (vv. 4-7)

- i. It is not insist in its own way (v. 5)
- ii. It is not irritable (easily angered)
- iii. It is not resentful (it seeks to forgive & to reconcile; it does not keep a record of wrongs)
- iv. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth (v. 6)
  1. It does not rejoice at the fall of an enemy
  2. It does not rejoice at sinful actions
  3. It does not rejoice at false doctrines
  4. Love rejoiced in truth

### II. Continuation:

#### A. 1Cor. 13:7 (ESV), “*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*”

##### i. “*Love bears all things*”

1. The Greek word “*stego*” means “*to roof over; to cover with silence (endure patiently)*”
2. Using the concept of “*covering*” like in 1Peter 4:8 (ESV), “*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.*”
  - a. Agape love “*bears all things*” by...
    - i. Not needlessly publicizing the failings of others.
    - ii. Agape “puts up” and “covers up” other people’s faults.
    - iii. In fact, if one uses the concept of “cover”
      1. Love “covers up” our mouths from saying too much, too quickly, in anger (James 1:19).
      2. Love “covers up” a critical eye, causing us to see others through a telescope, rather than a microscope.
      3. Love “covers up” other people’s little fault and habits that otherwise would be annoying if they were not covered up.
  - b. This does not mean that love turns a blind eye towards continued transgressions that call for church discipline (cf. 1Cor. 5).
3. Using “*stego*” as used by Paul in 1Cor. 9:12, “*If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.*”
  - a. Agape love “*bears all things*” in that, it gives up its freedoms for the greater good of others
  - b. This goes hand in hand with what Paul said earlier that love does not insist in its own way (v. 5).
4. Using 1Cor. 13:4, “*Love is patient*”
  - a. Agape love “*bears all things*” in that it does not easily gets angered nor does it seek revenge.

##### ii. “*believes all things*”

1. Paul obviously is dealing with relationships here, not with doctrines.
  - a. Love is not prone to believe false doctrines.
    - i. Remember: Love rejoices with the truth!
    - ii. Love is prone in giving others the benefit of the doubt.
    - iii. It believes the best of others.

iii. *“hopes all things”*

1. Love refuses to believe that failure is final in others!
  - a. Remember Matthew 18:22, where Jesus said to forgive not 7 but 77 times?
2. Love refuses to give up on people.

iv. *“endures all things”*

1. Love does not murmur nor complain, but bears up under!
2. It does not allow itself to become overwhelmed but perseveres steadfastly through difficult trials.

B. Having described the qualities of those who exercise the gift of love, Paul now takes up the permanency of love...

i. 1Cor. 13:8 (ESV), *“Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”*

1. Love goes on – it doesn’t fail to love others, and it goes right into eternity!
2. But the miraculous gifts of the Spirit shall cease:
  - a. The ability to miraculously speak forth the word of God will end.
  - b. The ability to miraculously speak foreign languages will end.
  - c. The ability to miraculously know mysteries will end.
  - d. Paul mentions three of the miraculous gifts here but this implies the others such as the gift of healing, interpretation, etc.

ii. 1Cor. 13:9-10 (ESV), *“For we know in part and we prophesy in part,<sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.”*

1. At their current status, there was a need for miraculously revealed knowledge and prophesy.
2. Paul is contrasting partial or in-part knowledge and prophesy with complete knowledge and prophesy.
3. *But when the perfect comes...*

a. The perfect what?

- i. Perfect knowledge and prophesy – in other words, the full revelation of the New Testament.
- ii. The term “perfect” is the Greek word “teleios” which means, “completeness; of full age”
- iii. When that perfect knowledge and prophesy comes, then there will be no need for further revelation.
- iv. Do we have the complete, inerrant word of God today? Yes.
- v. Is God giving new revelation today? No.

b. Some try to say that the perfect is referring to Jesus Christ.

- i. In the context, Paul is addressing knowledge and prophesy, not the return of Christ.
- ii. If this were addressing Jesus, wouldn’t Paul had come out and say “when Jesus comes?” or “when the Lord comes?”

iii. 1Cor. 13:11 (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.”*

1. Here, Paul is showing that the church is in its infancy state (needs miraculous revelation).
2. But when maturity comes, there will be no more need for that which is

iv. 1Cor. 13:12-13 (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.<sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”*

1. Again, Paul is addressing imperfect knowledge and imperfect prophesy.
2. The dim reflection points to the imperfect knowledge and prophesy.
3. The face to face points to the perfect knowledge and perfect prophesy.

**4. Consider the following chart...**

**Partial vs. Perfect**

<b>Now</b>	<b>Then</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>v. 9 we know &amp; prophesy in part</b>	<b>v. 10 the perfect comes</b>	<b>vv. 8-10 miraculous gifts done away</b>
<b>v. 11 as a child</b>	<b>v. 11 became a man</b>	<b>v. 11 childish things done away</b>
<b>v. 12 we see in a mirror dimly</b>	<b>v. 12 face to face (clear reflection)</b>	<b>v13 faith, hope &amp; love remain after gifts have ceases</b>
<b>v. 12 Know in part</b>	<b>v12 know fully</b>	

**5. Faith, hope and love will go on after the spiritual gifts cease.**

- a. Faith still goes on today! In Heaven, faith turns into sight!**
- b. Hope still goes on today! In Heaven, hope turns into enjoyment of that which is now obtained!**
- c. Love is the greatest; it will go on forever!**