

Sun Morning

# A Better Way

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**Text:** 1 Corinthians 13 - *charity (christian love)*

**Question** "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (1 Corinthians 13)

## INTRODUCTION

- Ask question: "Don't have love?"  
\* how to answer it?
- Compare positives & negatives  
\* example: Gal 5:19-21 (Neg) Gal 5:22-25 (Positive)

## 1. SUCCESS WITHOUT LOVE

IS Failure (v. 1-3)

A. Without love, It Doesn't Matter what  
I say (v. 1) - speech

loves

eros: physical sexual love - takes  
phileo: brotherly (family) love - take & give  
agape: pure self sacrificing love - gives  
= charity

- B. Without Love, It Doesn't Matter what I know (v. 2) - academics
- C. Without Love, It Doesn't Matter what I do (v. 3) - action

## 2. BIBLICAL LOVE ISN'T EMOTION

IT'S Action (v. 4-7)

- A. It's personal  
*"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." (Colossians 3:14)*
- B. It's practical - choices

Positives	LOVE IS <u>PATIENT</u>	patient
	LOVE IS <u>KIND</u>	kind
Negatory	LOVE DOES <u>NOT ENVY</u>	rejoices
	LOVE IS <u>NOT PROUD OR BOASTFUL</u>	humble
	LOVE IS <u>NOT RUDE</u>	good manners
	LOVE IS <u>NOT SELF-SEEKING</u>	shares
	LOVE IS <u>NOT IRRITABLE</u>	
	LOVE DOES <u>NOT KEEP RECORD OF WRONG</u>	
	LOVE FINDS NO JOY IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT REJOICES IN THE <u>TRUTH</u>	truthful
Positives	LOVE <u>BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS, AND ENDURES ALL THINGS</u>	giving hopeful endures

## 3. LOVE NEVER Expires (v. 8-13)

- A. Love outlasts Abilities and Intellect
- B. Love Is the mark of Christian Maturity

*"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13:34)*

Jn 15:12  
Gal 5:22

- even little children give love
- even those with Down's Syndrome give love

Last 3 greats remaining: faith, hope,  
charity (love)  
- greatest of these is charity (love)

C. The impact of Love  
Is Eternal

*"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love  
wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in  
sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace  
ye are saved;) (Ephesians 2:4-5)*

#### CONCLUSION

How do you treat your neighbor?  
Negatives = Ten Commandments (Rom 13:9)  
Positives = Love your neighbor  
(Rom 13:8, 10)

