

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-13

FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE

*"BUT NOW FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, ABIDE THESE THREE;
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE"*

CONTEXT OF 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

- Spiritual gifts - 1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14
 - 12 - Spiritual gifts to promote unity, NOT cause division
 - 13 - The central role of love in the exercise of spiritual gifts
 - Without love, even great actions are meaningless (v. 1-3)
 - Love characterized (v. 4-7)
 - Faith, hope, and love continue beyond spiritual gifts (v. 8-13)
 - 14 - Spiritual gifts in the assemblies - for the edification of believers

DEFINING 'LOVE'

- 1 Corinthians
13:4-13

Is Patient (4)	Is Kind
Is Not Jealous	Does Not Brag
Is Not Arrogant	Does Not Act Unbecomingly (5)
Does Not Seek Its Own	Is Not Provoked
Does Not Take Into Account A Wrong <i>Suffered</i>	Does Not Rejoice In Unrighteousness (6)
Rejoices In The Truth	Bears All Things (7)
Believes All Things	Hopes All Things
Endures All Things	Love Never Fails (8-13)

LOVE IS SUPERLATIVE

- The greatest of these is love (1 Cor. 13:13)
 - Spiritual gifts (tongues, prophecy, knowledge, faith) good deeds are meaningless without love (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
- And above all put on love (Col. 3:12-14)
- Above all things have fervent love (1 Pt. 4:7-8)
- The two great commandments (Matt. 22:36-40)

THE BASIS OF OUR LOVE - THE LOVE OF GOD AND CHRIST

- Our love for God and man stems from God's love
 - God is Love (1 John 4:7-18)
 - We love God who first loved us (1 John 4:19; 3:1-3)
 - If we love God, we must love our brother (1 John 4:20-21; c.f. Matt. 22:34-40)
- This is the love of God poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5-8; 1 Peter 1:22-25)
- We love as Christ loved us (Eph. 3:14-19; Jn. 15:9-14; 1 Jn. 3:16-19)

THE RESULT OF LOVE

- It is the reason for our hope of redemption (John 3:16)
- It motivates us to obey God (John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:1-5; 2 John 4-6)
- It causes us to provide for the needs of our brethren (1 John 3:17-18)
- Through our love for all, our hearts are established blameless in holiness (1 Thess. 3:11-13)
- We learn to love everyone, even our enemies (1 Thess. 4:9-12; Matt. 5:38-48)

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