

agape

(ἀγάπη)

THE UNIQUENESS OF LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3, 8-13

Dave Gustavsen - May 14, 2023

THE BIG IDEA: Without love, nothing else matters.

READ 1 COR. 13:1-3

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

1. Search the Word: Circle the phrases that describe the results of having gifts without love. How does this highlight the importance of love? Underline the words “if I” in these verses. What gifts are referenced?

2. Can you think of a time when someone (another person or yourself) displayed great gifts, but exercised those gifts without love? How did you know love was lacking? What was the result?

READ 1 COR. 13:8-13

“Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

3. Search the Word: List the gifts that will cease and the ones that will remain.

CEASE

REMAIN

Underline the word “**then**” and circle the word “**now**” as many times as they appear in the passage. List your observations.

4. Verse 9 says that our partial knowing and prophesying will disappear “when completeness comes.” What time period is this referring to?

5. Why is love elevated above even faith and hope?

PRAYER

Use the prompts below to guide your individual prayer time, as well as prayer with your group. We encourage groups to sub-group for prayer time (smaller groups of men and women).

PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:

In prayer this week, ask God to reveal any areas where your motivation is not done in love. Record what the Holy Spirit reveals to you in the space below. Then, ask God for the grace and power to use your gifts, purely motivated by love.

Identify someone in your life that needs to experience God’s love. Write their name below, and commit to pray for them this week.

GROUP PRAYER TIME:

Share what the Holy Spirit revealed, and then spend time praying for one another, asking God for His help in using each person’s gifts to serve others, in love.

Who have you been praying for this week? As a group, pray for the needs of that person.
