

Paul's Epistle of

1st CORINTHIANS

Chapter 13



Outline

I. Introduction (1:1- 9)

II. Dealing with Problems Reported to Paul (1:10 – 6:20)

A. Problem of Factionalism (1:10 – 3:23)

B. Problem of Rejecting Paul's Work (4:1-21)

C. Problem of the Fornicator and Church Discipline (5:1-13)

D. Taking Problems between Brethren to Civil Courts (6:1-11)

E. Responsibility to Glorify God with the Body (6:12-20)

III. Dealing with Questions Asked by the Corinthians (7:1 – 16:9)

A. “Now Concerning” – Marriage and Present Distress
(7:1-40)

B. “Now Concerning” – Idolatry and Personal Liberty
(8:1 – 11:1)

C. “Now... Remember Me” and Apostolic Tradition

1. Submission and Customs (11:2-16)

2. Pattern for Lord’s Supper (11:17-34)

D. “Now Concerning” – Spiritual Gifts (12:1 – 14:40)

E. “Now...” Concerning – The Resurrection (15:1-58)

F. “Now Concerning” – The Collection (16:1-9)

IV. Concluding Remarks (16:10-24)

1 Corinthians 13

I. The Excellence of Love (vv. 1-3)

A. Spiritual Gifts Without Love (vv. 1-2)

- a. Speaking with the tongues of men and angels without love is to become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. (v. 1)
- b. The gift of prophecy, understanding all mysteries and knowledge, and faith that could remove mountains, without love makes one nothing. (v. 2)

B. Service Without Love (v. 3)

- a. Giving all goods to feed the poor and giving your body to be burned without love profits nothing. (v. 3)

1 Corinthians 13

- I. **The Excellence of Love (vv. 1-3)**
- II. **The Characteristics of Love (vv. 4-6)**
 - A. **Positive Characteristics of Love (v. 4a)**
 - a. Love suffers long.
 - b. Love is kind.
 - B. **Negative Characteristics of Love (vv. 4b-6a)**
 - a. Love does not envy.
 - b. Love does not parade itself.
 - c. Love is not puffed up
 - d. Love does not behave rudely.
 - e. Love does not seek its own.
 - f. Love is not provoked.
 - g. Love thinks no evil.
 - h. Love does not rejoice in iniquity.
 - C. **Positive Characteristics of Love (cont.) (vv. 6b-7)**
 - a. Love rejoices in the truth.
 - b. Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13

I. The Excellence of Love (vv. 1-3)

II. The Characteristics of Love (vv. 4-6)

III. The Duration of Love (vv. 7-13)

A. In Contrast to Spiritual Gifts (vv. 8-12)

a. Love never fails.

b. Spiritual gifts will fail (vv. 8b-12):

i. Prophecies will fail. Tongues will cease. Knowledge will vanish away. (v. 8)

ii. Knowledge and prophecy are in part. That which is in part will be done away when the perfect comes. (vv. 9-10)

iii. Illustration of a child putting away childish things when reaching maturity. (v. 11)

iv. Illustration of seeing in a mirror vs. face to face. (v. 12)

B. In Contrast to Faith and Hope (v. 13)

a. Faith, hope, and love abide now.

b. The greatest is love.