

If I Have Not Love...
1 Corinthians 13:1-8
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what will happen when we do not have love.

- Intro:
1. Love should be part of being a Christian.
 2. An unloving Christian is not possible.
 3. To not have love is to not be a Christian.

I. If I...

- A. Speak the truth but have not love...(13:1)
 1. **Eph 4:15** – love wins souls, sarcasm, mocking, etc never will.
 - a. These things turn people away, such attitudes will be judged by Christ on the day of judgment.
 2. The wrong attitude and lack of love makes one a “sounding brass” or a “clanging cymbal”. (13:1b)
 - a. In other words, it makes your actions worthless.
- B. Have understanding, knowledge and great faith but have not love...
 1. You become nothing (13:2)
 2. There must be a love for those to whom we are speaking (1 Thess 2:3-8)
 - a. Notice v.7 “But we were gentle among you...”
- C. Give of my goods and my body.
 1. (13:3a) – Though he gives his goods to the poor...if he have not love...
 2. (13:3b) – Though he sacrifice physically for Christ ...if he has not love..
 3. Without love nothing we do matters. Without love nothing we do is sincere. Without love we do things for the wrong reasons.

II. How does love behave? (13:4-7)

- A. **It suffers long (v.4)**
 1. **“Self-restrain in the face of provocation; it is the opposite of anger” (according to Vine dictionary).**
- B. **Kind (v.4)**
 1. **Some define kindness this way – “one who renders gracious well-disposed service to others”.**
 - a. **Because of kindness, one’s love: does not parade itself, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity.(v.5)**
- C. **Rejoices in the truth (v.6)**
 1. **Rejoices when one is complimented and commended for goodness and good done.**
- D. **Bears all things (v.7)**
 1. **Supports during illness; is patient with the immaturity of the one loved.**
- E. **Believes all things (v.7)**
 1. **Confidence that the motives of actions are pure.**

F. Hopes all things (v.7)

1. **Trusts that the problems or heartaches of the present will give way to better times.**

G. Endures all things (v.7)

1. **Love will continue in the face of criticism, ingratitude, and unpleasant behavior.**

III. Lessons for us today.

A. The lack of love only causes problems and heartache.

1. Lack of love in the home is never good. It is harmful and causes a strain on relationships, to say the least.
2. The same happens when there is a lack of love in the church.
3. Brethren should love and respect one another, even in differences.
4. Anything less is not only unloving but it is displeasing to God.

B. Where love is, more love will abound.

1. Where there is love there is happiness, contentment and appreciation for one another.
2. Love covers or forgives a multitude of sins (**1 Pt 4:8**).

Application & Conclusion:

1. Do we have love for one another? (**1 Pt 1:22**)
2. Love never fails. Love solves many problems.
 - a. Christ's loving sacrifice on our behalf should be a reminder of that (**Jn 3:16**).
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9