

The Excellence of Love
1 Cor 13
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Thesis: I want to remind us about the excellence of love as found in 1 Corinthians 13.

- Intro:
1. Love is more than a feeling.
 2. Love is shown more than words, but by actions.

I. An Explanation (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)

- A. Love is necessary in speaking the truth of God (**1 Cor 13:1; Eph 4:15**)
1. There is a need for love in truth (**2 Thess 2:10**)
 2. There must be a love for those whom we teach (**1 Thess 2:3-8**)
 3. Even the miraculous actions needed love, without love they were nothing (**1 Cor 13:2, 1 Cor 12:2**)
- B. Love should motivate true giving (**1 Cor 13:3**)
1. We do not give to gain attention (Mt 6:1-4)
 2. Love wants to give glory to God, not self (**2 Cor 9:6**)

II. Characteristics and Attitudes of Love

A. Positive Characteristics

1. **Suffers long (1 Cor 13:4)**
 - a. Self-restraint when provoked.
2. **Kind (1 Cor 13:4)**
 - a. One who renders gracious well-disposed service to others
3. **Rejoices in the truth (2 Cor 13:6)**
 - a. Rejoices when the one loved is complimented and commended for goodness and good done.
4. **Bears all things (2 Cor 13:7)**
 - a. Supports during illness; is patient with the immature
5. **Believes all things (2 Cor 13:7)**
 - a. Confidence that the motives of actions are pure
6. **Hopes all things (2 Cor 13:7)**
 - a. Trusts that the problems or heartaches of the present will give way to better times.
7. **Endures all things (2 Cor 13:7)**
 - a. Love will continue in the face of criticism, ingratitude, and unpleasant behavior.

B. Characteristics of love: (**2 Cor 13:4**)

1. Does not parade itself
 - a. Does not boast or call attention to itself
2. Is not puffed up
 - a. Is not vain and arrogant
3. Does not have rudely
 - a. Does not verbally or physically abuse; does not embarrass or humiliate.

C. Positive characteristics of attitude

1. Is not provoked (1 Cor 13:5)
 - a. Is not brought to wrath quickly

2. Thinks no evil (1 Cor 13:5)
 - a. Does not abuse love; thinks the best of the one loved
3. Does not rejoice in iniquity (1 Cor 13:6)
 - a. Does not rejoice in wrong doing or when others do wrong
4. Believes all things (1 Cor 13:7)
 - a. Love trusts the one loved to tell nothing but the truth.

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. The Christian should strive for loving attributes.
 - 1. Love can great calm when other things create storms.**
 - 2. The Christian should always seek the calmness that comes from sincere love.**
- B. The absence of love generates many heart problems.
 1. When love is not present, negative attributes will raise their ugly head.
 - a. Bitterness, hatred, envy, gossip, jealousy, and the list goes on.
 2. Such anti-love attributes hurts not only the Christian, but the church as well.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Love is a type of apologetic or defense of God's reality.
2. God who is love (1 Jn 4:8) and has given us the capacity to love.
3. Love is potentially a foretaste of heaven
4. 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 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

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

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9