

Series: Guarding the Gospel of Grace

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS CHARITY

1 CORINTHIANS 13 GALATIANS 5

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:22-23

1 Corinthians 13:13

¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Introduction:

We read in 1 Corinthians that the greatest of faith hope and charity or love is charity.

In Galatians 5 we see that love is one of the fruits that is to be produced in the life of a believer.

The fruit of the Spirit is the fruit that comes from God Himself. It is this fruit that illustrates we are connected to the vine.

Notice as we consider what Paul states is the greatest:

Note:

1. DEFINITION OF LOVE

This is the Greek word Agape. It speaks of God's love.

That type of love is sacrificial love.

It is love that is extended without restraint or merit. It isn't defined by circumstances or situations, and isn't bound by the whims of humanity.

This type of love is only attained through a relationship with Christ.

One cannot truly love if one doesn't know Him.

Note not only the Definition of Love but also:

2. THE DESCRIPTION OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not

charity, it profiteth me nothing. ⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. ⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

- Without Biblical love our words are empty (vs. 1)
- Without Biblical love our motivation is weak (vs. 2)
- Without Biblical love our deeds have little impact (vs. 3-8)

Quote:

God knows that our relationships are more important than our accomplishments, and He challenges us to grow in His love.

Note

A. The Helpfulness of Biblical Love (vs. 4)

1 Corinthians 13:4

⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

- Love is patient

Love practices being patient. The term “suffereth long” is a reference to having patience with people.

Illustration:

Woman said my husband is temperamental – He’s 90% temper and 10% mental...

Illustration:

President Lincoln had an early political rival named Edwin Stanton. He called Lincoln the original gorilla. When Lincoln was elected president he chose Stanton to be his secretary of war. Someone asked Lincoln why he chose Stanton, and he said, “Because he’s the best man for the job.” At Lincoln’s Funeral Stanton said, “Here lies the greatest leader the world has ever known.” (Lincoln’s non retaliatory spirit won out.)

- Love is Kind (vs. 4)

1 Corinthians 13:4

⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Just as patience will take anything from others; kindness will give anything to others. To “be kind” means to be useful, serving and gracious.

We note the helpfulness of biblical love but also:

B. The Humility of Love (vs. 4)

1 Corinthians 13:4

⁴ Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Love is not jealous

When love sees someone who is successful it is glad for that person. It does not resent that person.

Jealousy is not a moderate sin.

Illustration:

Cain and Abel

Proverbs 27:4

⁴ Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

Love is not braggadocios

Love is not arrogant (puffed up)

Not only do we see the helpfulness and humility of biblical love but also:

C. Holiness of Biblical Love (vs. 5)

1 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Love doesn't behave rudely

Note not only the definition and description of biblical love but note lastly the:

3. DEMONSTRATION OF BIBLICAL LOVE

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 15:12-13

¹² This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Close:

Do we see this fruit being produced in our lives today?