



**CHRIST
BIBLE CHURCH**

Glorifying God by bringing all of Christ into all of life.

URGENT

1st
CENTURY
CIRCA ROM



1 Corinthians



The Apostle Paul's Mission to the Corinthians



Christ Bible Church

Adult Bible Class Calendar Fall 2023



Date			Lesson Portion of 1 Corinthians
1	September	10	Review & Preview
2	September	17	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
3	September	24	1 Corinthians 11:17-34
4	October	1	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
5	October	8	1 Corinthians 12:12-20
6	October	15	1 Corinthians 12:21-31
7	October	22	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
8	October	29	1 Corinthians 14:1-12
9	November	5	1 Corinthians 14:13-25
10	November	12	1 Corinthians 14:26-40
11	November	19	1 Corinthians 16:1-11
12	November	26	1 Corinthians 16:12-24



Concerning Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12-14



1 Corinthians 11-16

- I. Introduction (1:1-9).
- II. Response to Received Reliable Oral Reports from the Corinthians (1:10-6:20).
- III. Response to a Letter from the Corinthians (7:1-16:4)
 - A. Concerning Marriage and Related Questions (7:1-40).
 - B. Concerning Foods Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11:1).
 - C. Concerning the Christian Assembly (11:2-34).
 - D. Concerning Spirituality & Spiritual Gifts (12:1-14:40).
 - 1. The Crucial Test: Jesus is Lord (12:1-3).
 - 2. The Diversity of Gifts within One Body (12:4-31a).
 - 3. The Crucial Accompaniment: Love (12:31b-13:13).
 - a. The Absence of Love (12:31b-13:3).
 - b. The Nature of Love (13:4-7).
 - c. The Endlessness of Love (13:8-13).
 - E. Concerning the Resurrection of the Body (15:1-58).
 - F. Concerning the Collection (16:1-4).
- IV. Conclusion (16:5-24).





Concerning Spiritual Gifts

The Crucial Accompaniment: Love (12:31b-13:13)



A More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 13



LOVE

How Does Chapter 13 Fit after Chapter 12?

- Has the Apostle Paul lost his train of thought?
- Is chapter 13 a digression, an interruption?
- Compare 1 Corinthians 9.
- Chapter 13, not irrelevant.
- Paul links chapter 13 with chapter 12
 - 13:1-3.
 - 13:8-13.
 - 13:4-7.



Transition from Chapter 12 to 13

- True spirituality.
- Multiplicity of spiritual gifts.
- Edification of the body.
- “But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”

Spiritual Gifts Useless without Love

LOVE

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have no love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned but have no love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

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1 Corinthians 13:1-3



- Paul illustrates spiritual gifts void of love.
- “Tongues of men and of angels.”
- Pride—Speaking in a language others do not know.
- Paul uses hyperbole—all mysteries; all knowledge; move mountains.
- Greatest sacrifice.
 - ESV—“and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”
 - NIV—“and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”
 - The difference between the two readings involves one character.
 - καυθήσωμαι [to be burned] ♦ καυχήσωμαι [to boast]
 - Either reading fits.



1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Paul doesn't mention preaching, but he does in Philippians 1:15-18.

Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Love's Character

LOVE

1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7



1 Corinthians 13:4-7

- Paul portrays love.
 - Simple description.
 - Personification.
- Personification merges actions and actors, behavior and people.
- Proverbs 27:2—Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.
- Love honors others. Love is considerate.
- Love is longsuffering.
- Love rejoices in everything good.
- Love bears, believes, hopes, endures all things.
- Love assumes the best of others, not the worst.





LOVE

1 Corinthians 13

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13



1 Corinthians 13:8-13

- Paul contrasts endless love with fleeting spiritual gifts.
- He explains why gifts will pass away.
- Spiritual gifts belong to what is partial, incomplete—“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.”
- “Partial” does not mean prophecy and knowledge are mixed with error.
- Prophecy and knowledge are incomplete. They belong to the present age.
- In the age to come, no need for these gifts.
- Verse 10 punctures the Corinthians’ inflated notion of spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13



- Verse 10—What is “that which is perfect”?
- “That which is perfect,” is it the completed New Testament?
- “That which is perfect,” is it spiritual maturity?
- Neither explanation is convincing.
- Verse 11 misunderstood to refer to Paul’s own maturation.
- “The perfect” is the consummation of all things.
- Implicit warning against exalting certain gifts improperly.
- Verse 12 reinforces Paul’s imagery of childhood and adulthood.
- “Now” is the present age. “Then” is the age to come.
- Imagery of a mirror: We do not see the thing itself but only an image of it.



1 Corinthians 13:8-13



- Face to face in the age to come.
- “We shall know fully,” not a claim that we shall have omniscience.
- Love is superior: “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
- Christian faith and hope will be realized in that day.
- Faith rests in God. Hope looks forward to our eternal relationship with the Father in his Son, through the Spirit.
- Love grounds faith and hope. God’s love in Christ, minister to us by the Spirit, calls for faith and hope.

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