

**DIVINE LOVE BY Way of CHARITY
- A SUPREME ATTRIBUTE -**

TEXT:

1 Corinthians 13:1-2:

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.

THEME:

DIVINE LOVE by way of CHARITY

is the SUPREME ATTRIBUTE

OF ALL CHRISTIAN GRACES



A MAN may have wonderful knowledge and may be able to unravel the mysteries of the Bible, and yet be as cold as an icicle. He may glisten like the snow in the sun.

1 Corinthians 8:1: Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

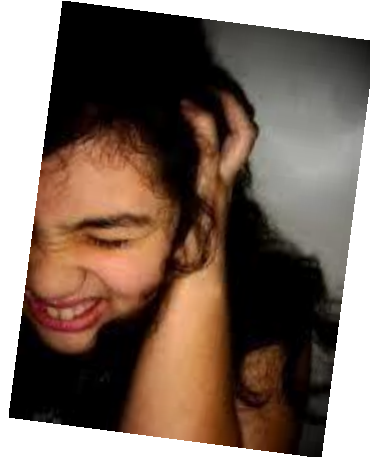
Sometimes you have wondered why it was that certain ministers have had such wonderful magnetism, who have such a marvelous command of language, and who preach with such mental strength, have not had more conversions. I believe if the truth were known, you would find no divine love behind their words, no pure love in their sermons. Christians lacking in love are also poor soul winners.

SOUNDING BRASS or CLANGING CYMBAL

1 Corinthians 13:1: 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.

. . . Becoming nothing more than plenty of noise

Like an empty wagon on a rough gravel road is always noisy, so those without a good measure of DIVINE LOVE are equally the same. A loaded wagon makes very little noise.



The Holy Spirit is showing us here: Gifts of *the Spirit without being motivated by DIVINE LOVE are of little worth.*

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

This is an excellent Gift of the Spirit, and excels many of the others, yet, without DIVINE LOVE motivating it, it reduces us to NOTHING. Prophecy's purpose is for *edification, exhortation and comforting*. It also convicts, judges and makes manifest the secret intents of the heart to those who need it, this is a valuable asset for their spiritual welfare. Yet, if not motivated by DIVINE LOVE, we are reduced to become nothings.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25:

²⁴ But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

²⁵ And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

If we speak with the Gift of TONGUES of men or angels, we give an eloquent discourse without the benefit of the Holy Spirit. There are many who are taken up with sweet words, flattering words without deeds. They only pay lip service.

A certain man had two sons, Jesus tells us, and the man:

Matthew 21:28b-30:

28b . . . came to the first, and said, “Son, go work today in my vineyard.”

29 He answered and said, “I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.”

30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, “I go, sir: and went not.”

Another example of lip service:

Mark 7:6: He answered and said unto them, “Well hath Esaias [Isaiah] prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.’”

1. The **GREATNESS OF LOVE** comes through **CHARITY**

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

Love is the greatest. Love is the strength of faith and the inspiration of hope.

2. The **EXTENT OF LOVE** comes through God’s **CHARITY**

How much does God love you?

John 3:16: 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: But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 2:24: Who His Own Self bare our sins in His Own Body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Matthew 8:17: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias [Isaiah] the prophet, saying, "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Luke 12:32: Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.

John 17:23: [Jesus speaking to the Father] "I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me."

3. KEEP YOURSELVES in the LOVE OF GOD through CHARITY.

- You must know the Word of God.
- Charity involves always choosing the good and refusing the evil.
- Charity is refusing to allow any bitterness to enter your life.



Hebrews 12:15: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the Grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

- Charity is knowing that you were crucified with Christ, died with Him, was buried with Him and rose in newness of life with Him. Your sins, the old man (old man is crucified with Him) and all, were left behind when you rose in newness of life. Therefore you can count on this.

On this basis, you reckon yourself to be dead unto sin (free from it) and alive unto God through Jesus Christ. He died unto sin, once; we should

also die unto sin once. Now when satan tempts you through trying to get you to accept a feeling of hate or other evil thing, you can say, "That was a part of my old man. That old man is crucified and buried."

This feeling of hate is not a part of my new nature or life, "Satan be gone with your temptation! I refuse it in the Name of Jesus!" Act on it, stand on it and the devil will have to flee.

Romans 6:6-14:

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him:

⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him.

¹⁰ For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God.

¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the Law, but under Grace.



- Jesus used the Word to quell all of Satan's attacks in the wilderness. Jesus' love for the Father was too strong to yield.

You put on the whole armour of God. Ephesians 6 the Shield of faith will quench all the fiery missiles of the wicked one. Thus, you can keep yourself in the love of God.

4. Love by way of **CHARITY** is the **rich, strong, manly, vigorous expression of the WHOLE ROUND CHRISTIAN CHARACTER, the Christ-like nature in its fullest development.**
5. Love by way of **CHARITY** is **GIVING PLEASURE NOT MERELY PLEASING.**
6. A life of Love by way of **CHARITY** is, in reality, **GOD LIVING HIMSELF in US as HE DID in JESUS. He that hath the Son hath the Father:**

2 John 1:9: Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

7. Love by way of **CHARITY** may be analyzed and taken to pieces for examination and understanding. In any analysis, **THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS.** That is why a person may know the Love of God that passeth knowledge.



Ephesians 3:19: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

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