

LOVE – TRANSLATES AS CHARITY

INTRODUCTION:

This Divine Love through Charity is what we desire to be shown to us the most, but we show and give the least.

In 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14, it shows

An inseparable link between

LOVE with Spiritual Gifts

- In contrast to -

Spiritual Gifts Motivated BY LOVE.

- Out of this love comes the most wonderful fruit.

If you were to slap one such Love on the jaws, you would get the fragrance of Love on your hand, and as you walk away you would feel something sticky on your hand.

Lick it off, and get under conviction, come back and see what ails him, it is perfect PURE love - LOVE NEVER FAILTETH.

TEXT:

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.



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.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.



13 And now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity, these three; but the greatest of these is Charity.

FAITH... HOPE... CHARITY

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit tells us how to **recognize** and **know** genuine Charity, also how to keep this charity flowing. This knowledge is very essential and needed by all the family of God.

Trying to use Spiritual Gifts without love is like trying to run a car without oil in the crank case because that engine will begin to knock and rattle; and that is what Paul tells us - how Spiritual Gifts without divine love sounds like a clanging cymbal. You will not win souls, fill this church house, or live near to Christ without Charity.



Spiritual Gifts with Divine Love is the greatest asset to the establishing of the Church and has, and bears a message of its own. "For God So Loved the World . . ." is the theme of the Bible. It is the *first manifestation* of the Spirit Baptism in Galatians 5:22-23, and though we rejoice and magnify *the Gifts of the Spirit*, yet they, without LOVE, are nothing.

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.**

In **2 Samuel 9:1**, David asks: **"Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"**

In **John 21:15**, [Jesus tests Peter's love with the searching question:] **"Lovest Thou me more . . .?"**

1 John 4:6: We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the Spirit of Truth, and the spirit of error.

1 John 4:8: He that loveth not - knoweth not God; for God is love.

Jesus' First Commandment to His disciples is:

John 13:34: A new Commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Matthew 16:25a: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it:



Jesus said in:

Matthew 16:24, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

1 Corinthians 10:31: Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the Glory of God.

There is no place for self-seeking in Love. Our only concern is pleasing Jesus and the helping of others. ***For God so loved the world that He gave. Christ so loved that He gave . . .***

Ephesians 3:18: May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

Ephesians 5:21-28:

²¹ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the Church: and He is the Saviour of the Body.

²⁴ Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it;

²⁶ That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,

²⁷ That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be Holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

LOVE by way of CHARITY . . .

ENVIETH NOT . . . 1 Corinthians 13:4

I say, "No" to myself . . . refuse to obey this spirit of the flesh with its selfish impulses.

My spirit, when love is thin, is unhappy over the success of others and their happiness that exceeds mine, and over their position being superior to mine.

LOVE by way of CHARITY . . .

VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF (MODESTY OF LOVE) . . . 1 Corinthians 13:4

Charity never boasts nor wants people to advertise or praise us.



Charity despises the spirit of vain glory, bragging, showing out for public gaze in its own world of empty fame.

One of the worst enemies in the church today is, "Who shall be the greatest?"

This even crept in among the disciples.

In the home, the child tries to get everyone's attention by showing off. Parents call this entertaining.

Charity is not discourteous or rude. **There is no offense when little attention is paid to us.**

John 3:25-32:

25 Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.

26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, "Rabbi, He that was with thee beyond Jordan, to Whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to Him."

²⁷ John answered and said, ***“A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from Heaven.***

²⁸ Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him.’

²⁹ He that hath the Bride is the Bridegroom: but the friend of the Bridegroom, which standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

³⁰ ***He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease.***

³¹ He [Jesus] that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: ***He that cometh from Heaven is above all.***

³² And what He hath seen and heard, that He testifieth; and no man receiveth His Testimony.”

LOVE by way of **CHARITY . . .**

DOTH NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY . . . 1 Corinthians 13:5

Proverbs 25:28: He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.



. . . So that every robber and lawless wanderer can come in?

. . . So that we have no rule over our own spirit?

1 Thessalonians 5:23: And the very God of Peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 7:1: Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1 Corinthians 14:14-32:

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say "Amen" at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

21 In the law it is written, "With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me," saith the Lord.

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

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.

26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

The prophet can misjudge the quality and quantity of his own inspiration, allowing his own judgment to run away with him, until he transgresses the law of the Spirit. So in tongues, if I pray in an unknown tongue, Paul says: “***My spirit prayeth.***” Paul does not say, “The Holy Spirit spoke thru me in tongues.”

LOVE by way of CHARITY . . . IS NOT PUFFED UP . . . 1 Corinthians 13:4

An exaggerated idea of itself produces a puffed up condition, an undue estimate of our ability and worth. It is a BIG “I” and a little “you”. It is pride laid bare by ourselves. God hates and resists a proud spirit. The only remedy for a proud spirit is to crucify oneself.



Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

LOVE by way of CHARITY . . .

IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED . . . 1 Corinthians 13:5

The old carnal heart blows a fuse. It can't behave itself. It causes bloodshed, broken hearts, broken homes, crime. Moses lost the Promised Land by it. Cain murdered Able.

LOVE by way of CHARITY . . .

THINKETH NO EVIL . . . 1 Corinthians 13:5

Love affects the mind. This is tested and proved by experiences.

Psalm 106:32: They [the Children of Israel] angered Him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes:

Charity does not keep record of evil done to you. We are called to forgive seventy times seven (70 X 7). What if God held our past against us?

LOVE by way of CHARITY . . .

REJOICETH NOT IN INIQUITY . . . 1 Corinthians 13:6

When God gives one's enemy or adversary a "spanking" by allowing some calamity to come upon him, Love does not rejoice and yell out "it serves him right!".

LOVE by way of CHARITY . . .

HOPETH ALL THINGS . . . 1 Corinthians 13:7

When Faith is tried and waits long for an answer, then Hope comes to aid her, saying "It is not now - but it will be."



LOVE by way of CHARITY . . .

ENDURETH ALL THINGS . . . 1 Corinthians 13:7

Like a brave soldier - when love is persecuted, it endures.

When one loses charity, he will become like the Pharisees – hard-hearted, with a legalistic zealousness to do what is right, but in the spirit of the devil rather than in the spirit of the Lord.

The woman caught in adultery:

John 8:1:

¹ Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives.

² And early in the morning He came again into the Temple, and all the people came unto Him; and He sat down, and taught them.

³ And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto Him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

⁴ They say unto Him, “Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

⁵ Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest Thou?”

⁶ This they said, tempting Him, that they might have to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not.



⁷ So when they continued asking Him, He lifted up himself, and said unto them,

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”

⁸ And again He stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

⁹ And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last:

The manifestation of Charity under various trials and tests proves whether we have Charity or not.

Charity is not wrung out of a selfish heart. It is not worked up by efforts of human will and cultivation.

Charity must be Holy Spirit produced.

Charity is wholly Divine.

Charity comes from Above,

by death to flesh and by giving our all to Jesus.

Death to flesh

is only fully known

when we have Jesus, fully.

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