

"THE GREATEST AIM IN LIFE"

1 Corinthians 13-14:1 ~ "Make Love Your Greatest Aim" 1 Cor. 14:1 (LB)

(Unless otherwise indicated, verses are from 1 Cor. 13, The Message)

THE PRIORITY OF LOVE

Without Love . . .

1. All that I say is ineffective.

"If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate." v. 1

"Speak the truth in love . . ." Eph. 4:15 (ICB)

2. All that I know is incomplete.

"If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day. . . but I don't love, I'm nothing." v.2

". . . Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." 1 Cor. 8:1b

3. All that I believe is insufficient.

". . . and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing." 13:2b

"... The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Gal. 5:6b (NIV)

4. All that I give is insignificant.

"If I give everything I own to the poor. . . but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere." v. 3a

5. All I accomplish is inadequate.

"If I go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere." v. 3b

THE PRACTICE OF LOVE

"Most of all, let love guide your life..." Col. 3:14 (LB)

Description of a Loving Lifestyle:

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' Doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end." vv. 4-7

1. Love is an action

2. Love is a choice

THE PERMANENCE OF LOVE

"Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. Love never fails." vv. 7-8a (Phillips)

Love will last for eternity

"In this life we have three lasting qualities -- faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love." 1 Cor. 13:13 (Phillips)

"Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other." John 13:34-35 (Mes.)