

The Value Of Love

I Cor. 13:1-13

Introduction:

- A. The subject of love needs serious study.
 - 1. Because it is misunderstood and abused.
 - a. Three words for love: Agape, Philos, Eros.
 - b. Expressed in more than quite whining tones.
 - c. Fornication in the name of “making love.” (Eph. 5:2,3)
 - 2. Because it must be responsibly demonstrated.
 - a. Show love for God by keeping commandments. (1 John. 5:3).
 - b. Show love for children of God in same way. (1 John 5:2)
 - 3. Because it's importance is both minimized and exaggerated.
 - a. Preacher prayed: “We know that love more important than being right.
 - b. Others think any demonstration of love a sign of weakness.
 - 4. Because it is an age-long problem.
 - a. Two churches in Revelation:
 - (1) Ephesus — Strong in doctrine but weak in love. (Rev. 2:2-5).
 - (2) Thyatira — Strong in love weak in doctrine. (Rev. 2:18-19-21).
 - b. Church at Corinth: Spiritual gifts without love.
- B. The value of love taught from three **viewpoints** in our text:

Discussion:

- I. **The Comparative Value Of Love.**
 - A. Powerful gifts nothing without love. (vv. 1,2).
 - B. Liberal benevolence nothing without love. (v. 3).
 - C. Extreme sacrifice nothing without love. (v. 3).
- II. **The Practical Value Of Love.**
 - A. “Suffers long” (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Pet. 4:8; 2 Tim. 2:24).
 - B. “Kind” (cf. Eph. 4:32).
 - C. “Does not Envy.”
 - D. “Does not parade itself.” (does not show off).
 - E. “Is not puffed up.” (Cf. 1 Cor. 4:6,18,19; 8:1).
 - F. “Does not behave rudely.” (cf. 1 Pet. 3:8).
 - G. “Does seek its own.”
 - H. “Is not provoked.” (indignant but not exasperated)
 - I. “Thinks no evil.” (Marg. Keeps no account of evil.)
 - J. “Does not rejoice iniquity, but rejoices in truth.”
 - K. “Bears all Things”.
 - L. “Believes all things.” (Opposite to believing worst of people)
 - M. “Hopes all things.” (Opposite of dark and gloomy view of people).
 - N. “Endures all things.” (cf. Luke 17:4).
- III. **The Lasting Value of Love.**
 - A. It will outlast spiritual gifts. (vv. 8-12).
 - B. It will outlast even faith and hope.

Conclusion:

- A. “If you love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15).
- B. Be strong in doctrine and in love.