



## 1 Corinthians 13 New International Version

<sup>13</sup> If I speak in the tongues<sup>[a]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[b]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

What are you known for? What do you want to be known for?

**Advent is Christian life in four weeks.**



## SERMON NOTES

*The best Legacy we can leave is not for our children, but in our children.*

### Life is comprised of three primary motives

#### We live by **FAITH** (what is true)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Phil 4:13

#### We are motivated by **HOPE** (what is valued)

*It is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today.* Acts 26:6

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him [faith], so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rm 15:13

#### We come alive in **LOVE** (what is why)

*“The only thing that counts is faith expressed in love.”* Galatians 5:6  
*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.* 1Jn 4:16

### The Most Crippling Word: **SOMEDAY**

### 3 Most Powerful Words **START RIGHT NOW**

QUESTIONS: if this were going to be your last year,  
What is your confidence in? (career,  
What would you want to be know for?  
Your legacy to be  
How would you want to be remembered  
To be your legacy

**I want to grow spiritually...**  
**I want faith worth dying for...**  
**I want to hope radically**  
**I want to love generously**

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before  
which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." — John  
Quincy Adams

'The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day  
you find out why.' Mark Twain

#### **1 John 4:16**

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God **is love**.  
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

#### **1 John 5:3**

In fact, this **is love** for God: to keep his commands. And his commands  
are not burdensome,

#### **2 John 1:6**

And this **is love**: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you  
have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

## **Everyone is known for something.**

"The greatest proof of Christianity for others is not how far a man can  
logically analyze his reasons for believing, but how far in practice he  
will stake his life on his belief." — T. S. Eliot

# SACRED JOURNEY

## Love of Christ

Perhaps the most abused phrase in the English language is "I love you."  
Instead of communicating unselfish caring, it often expresses enlightened self-  
interest, manipulative affection or sheer lust. In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul not only  
defines love for us but shows us why this is the most excellent way to relate to  
anyone—especially to members of the family of God.

Think of a person who has truly loved you. What were the marks of that  
person's way of relating to you?

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 13**

- What is so tragic about using our gifts without love (vv. 1-3)?
- How would you define each of love's qualities (vv. 4-7)?
- Why is love greater than faith or hope (v. 13)?

## Applying the Word

- How can love lead to healthy interdependence in your relationships  
rather than unhealthy independence or dependence?
- Which aspect of love do you most need to develop?
- Besides telling us what love is, this passage gives us an incidental  
portrait of Jesus as the ultimate lover. Reread verses 4-7, replacing love  
with Jesus. What fresh picture of Jesus' care do you gain through this  
exercise?

# 1 Corinthians 13 (Message)

## The Way of Love

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

<sup>2</sup>If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

<sup>3-7</sup>If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

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.

<sup>8-10</sup>Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

<sup>11</sup>When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

<sup>12</sup>We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

<sup>13</sup>But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? Romans 8:24