

March 10th 2020

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² 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. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

This chapter is often read at weddings and it does seem appropriate. However, it's so much more!!! Love - the word ἀγάπη or **agape** is used throughout this chapter. Agape love is the highest form of love – the love of God for man and man for God.

Paul reminds us that we can have many gifts and provide all kinds of joy and happiness for others, but without love attached they mean nothing in the eyes of God. Acts without love mean nothing. God demonstrated this kind of love when He sent us His son to teach us, live with us and die for us. How much more does He have to do before we realize His love and act in a way He wants us to?

GOD LOVES YOU THAT MUCH!!! He died for me and for you!! Let that sink in. I can hardly take it in. What can I do for Him? Here I am Lord! The next time you sing it – mean it – and respond!

Prayer: Loving Father – Thank you for sending Jesus to live with us, teach us and die for us. May we learn to show the love You gave us to others. Help us to follow Your way and will in our lives. For it is in Your Son's name we pray. So be it!

Jayne Stanley