

## 1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 37

### Chapter 13: The Importance of Charity Above All Else

16 February 2018

#### Charity is better than any gift or ability you possess (1 Cor. 12:31-13:3).

- Any gift you possess must be exercised with humility (Rom. 12:3).
- Fame, popularity, reputation doesn't make a person more worthy of your time and attention. Avoid exalting a person because of their popularity.
- Verse 2: some men flaunt their credentials (theological degrees, TV and Radio fame, books written) to gain an audience and a following.
- Verse 3: some are exalted and praised for their good works. (Mother Theresa)
  - All of these things could be genuine—or they could be faked.
  - True Charity cannot be faked.

---

**Vs 4 True charity is longsuffering and kind.** A faker can pretend to put up with mistreatment once or twice, but will eventually be exposed as a fraud.

**True charity doesn't envy.** Be content with your position, your gifts, and your level of recognition in the church. If you love the brethren, you'll want them to do succeed.

**"Vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up."** Charity will stop you from bragging about something you have that someone else doesn't have (whether gifts, opportunities, or possessions).

**Vs 5** Charity will stop you from being indecent (**behaving unseemly**), from being selfish, and from losing your temper. It will even help you to avoid evil thoughts that turn to gossip and slander.

**Vs 6 "Rejoiceth not in iniquity."** Charity will help you to find pleasure in things that are clean, decent, and right. It'll help you to enjoy the truth even when that truth points the finger at you. Charity will help you to stay in agreement with God.

**Vs 7 "Beareth all things;"** if you love, you can put up with things (like parents put up with their children when they do wrong).

**"Believeth all things"** (in the Bible; things that are good and right).

**"Hopeth all things."** In the Bible, hope is an *expectancy* of the fulfilled promises of God. A Christian's hope is not in something that may or may not happen, but in something that *will* happen, such as the redemption of your body at the rapture of the church.

**"Endureth all things."** You won't quit on God or on others when things get difficult (2 Thess. 1:4, 2 Tim 2:3)

**Vs. 8 "Charity never faileth."** Jesus Christ is the standard for charity. He was put to the test in all these areas and never failed to demonstrate absolute charity.

---

**A TRUE CHRISTIAN WILL BE VICTORIOUS IN ALL OF THESE AREAS, BEING FULLY SURRENDERED TO JESUS CHRIST.** Saved people fail every day because they are not Christians (they are not following Christ). If Jesus is the standard of charity—and **"charity never faileth,"** then if you are in submission to him, you will not fail.

## **1 JOHN 3:10-16**

**Vs 10** What is the true “*manifestation*” of the Holy Ghost? What shows people that you are a Christian? You love righteousness and you love the brethren.

**Vs 11** Love for one another is the foundation of our Christian training. Everything else we learn comes next.

**Vs 12** Knowledge is not enough. Cain knew God and he knew what was right, but he had a bad heart.

**13-16** Our love for the brethren gives us assurance of salvation (vs 14). Jesus laid down His life for us. We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. The brethren can’t do anything to you that Jesus didn’t endure first. Their faults against you should not sever your love relationship with them.

---

**1 JOHN 4:19-21** The Lord Jesus has commanded us to love the brethren.

---

**JOHN 15:12** Jesus loved those who betrayed Him and forsook Him. He commands us to do the same.

---

**ROMANS 5:6-8** Christ loved us while we were yet sinners. He commands us to do likewise.

---

**1 PETER 4:8** Among believers there will be a “multitude of sins” that we are commanded to “cover.”

---

**1 TIMOTHY 1:5** Love fulfills all the commandments. If you love God, you won’t want to sin against Him. If you love the brethren, you won’t ever want to sin against them. If you’re wholly submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ, you’ll instinctively obey His commandments.

---

**PROVERBS 17:17** If you count yourself a friend to someone, you’ll still be a friend even when your friend does you wrong. Did you lose “friends” when you got saved? That’s because they weren’t really your friends.

It is during adversity (hard times, difficult situations) that you’ll find out who your true friends are. A true friend’s love, friendship, support, and charity will not fail when it’s needed most. Who can be a friend like Jesus?

---