

THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY

(1 Corinthians 12-31-13:13)

Part 3

Sunday, May 15th, 2011
IBC - Keeseville, NY

INTRODUCTION: We have seen that the love which Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 13 is the love that belongs to God and which was shed abroad in every believers heart by the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us (Romans 5:5). We also discovered that this love is the fruit of the Spirit, or fruit that belongs to the Spirit and can only be manifested in the life of a believer by being under the control of God the Holy Spirit - the filling of the Holy Spirit is in view here (Ephesians 5:18)...this I believe to be "the more excellent way" that Paul tells the Corinthians that he will show to them (1 Corinthians 12:31). The person who is filled with the Holy Spirit will be motivated by love in all that he/she says and does...nothing else "counts" with God (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). If in fact it is true that nothing I say or do counts for anything with God apart from being motivated by the love of God the Holy Spirit, then it is important to understand how Paul defines love - yet love defies definition so Paul gives fourteen characteristic traits of what love in the life of a believer does and does not do (1 Corinthians 13:4-8*). Though it may be hard to define, love is easy to recognize. In the last section of chapter 13 we will see this morning that Paul will show that as great as spiritual gifts are they are only temporary and one day will have served their purpose and be done away with - but love is eternal and will go on throughout the endless ages of eternity.

I. THE SUPERIORITY OF THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- A. SUPERIORITY OVER ELOQUENCE - v. 1
- B. SUPERIORITY OVER GIFTEDNESS - v. 2
- C. SUPERIORITY OVER SACRIFICE - v. 3

II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY - 1 Cor. 13:4-8

III. THE CONTRAST OF THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY - 1 Cor. 13:8-13

A. IN CONTRAST TO SOME EXCEPTIONAL _____ - 8-12

1. ONE GUIDING PRINCIPLE - vs. 8-10

While Love is _____ - Spiritual Gifts are _____
While Love is _____ - Spiritual Gifts are _____

2. TWO HELPFUL _____ - vs. 11-12

▶ FROM _____ HOOD TO _____ HOOD - v. 11

▶ FROM _____ VISION TO _____ VISION - v. 12

B. IN CONTRAST TO SOME EXCEPTIONAL _____ - vs. 13

1. WHY IS LOVE GREATER THEN _____ - vs. 13

2. WHY IS LOVE GREATER THEN _____ - vs. 13

That which is _____ is of greater value and higher priority
than that which is _____