

LOVERLY

Int.

1. Aim: To show how love is to be produced in our lives and why!
2. **LOVERLY** is the word to describe 1 Cor. 13
 - a. It is an Adjective and Adverb
 - i. Adjective = limits or qualifies a noun
 - ii. Adverb = modifies meaning of a verb
 - b. Love is a noun because it describes a person who is a Christian
 - c. Love is a verb because it is a word that expresses the action of love.
3. The most excellent way is "loverly" as described in I Cor. 13.
 - a. Love is important - 1-3
 - b. Love is possible - 4-7
 - c. Love is greatest- 8-13

Discussion

I. LOVE IS IMPORTANT - I Cor. 13:1-3

- A. All else minus love = zero
 1. Eloquent speech does not matter
 - a. Eloquence without love is only noise making
 - b. Without love it is only a loud empty noise
 2. Good deeds do not matter
 - a. Some give for the purpose of impressing other people
 - b. It is useless without love
 3. A strong faith does not matter - without love !

B. We need love in order to live

1. "A baby does not live by milk alone."
2. Studies have shown that babies cannot survive without love
3. TIME magazine reported a few years ago about some research in a home in Latin America. They had 91 infants at the time when the research started. Within 3 months 30% had died, and the others were in failing health. They had plenty of good food, clothing, light, air, and toys. Competent nurses fed and bathed them regularly. But one thing was lacking. Each nurse was responsible for 10 infants. They were too busy to stop and play with the children. As a result, they were love starved, and the infants were crippled in their battle for life.
4. That is true not only for infants but for all human beings regardless of their age.
5. Try to imagine your life without love:
 - a. There is no one who loves you.
 - b. There is no one you love
 - c. There is no love expressed or shown in your life
6. Without "love" life is nothing
 - a. You may be in the "money", but if your out of love your out of life
 - b. You may be in the "news" but if your are out of love the attention you claim from the many is cancelled by the warmth you lack from the few.
 - c. You may be on the job but if you are out of love the joy of doing your work well is overcast by the ominous suspicion that there is no longer any point in doing your work at all.

C. Why is love so important?

1. Doctors and psychologist have determined that we are biologically predetermined toward love. That means we are born with the need to love and be loved!
2. But why?
3. Because God is love and God who created us made us in his image. - I Jn. 4:8 - Gen. 1:27 2 Pet. 1:4 - partakers of the divine nature
4. Love is important not just to live, but we live because we have been and are being loved!
5. Nothing else matters quite as much in life as to love and to be loved.

D. Love is important, but also....

II. LOVE IS POSSIBLE - I Cor. 13:4-7 - 3 areas of love

A. Love of fellow man - 4-5

1. Ingredient or characteristics:

- (1) Patience = suffereth long - bearing without complaint- wait -Job Jas.5:11
 - (2) Kindness = goodness in action - oil that takes friction out of life
 - (3) Generosity = envieth not - willing to help others
 - (4) Humility = vaunteth not itself-is not puffed up-bragging on self - windbag
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- (5) Courtesy = doth not behave itself unseemly - not rude
 - (6) Unselfishness - love does not seek her own advantage
 - (7) Good temper = is not easily provoked - slow to anger
 - (8) Thinketh no evil = not picky - covers sin - 1 Pet. 4:8

2. Our love is tested in life
 - a. We must learn how to love our fellow man so that we can learn to love God.
 - b. I Jn.4:20-21
 - c. If we think we love God, we must first know that we love our brother.
 - d. We must learn how to get along with each other.
 - e. How do we treat our fellow man?
 - f. Do we treat them as we would like for them to treat us?

3. Paul wrote this letter to Corinth because they were having problems
 - a. They were having difficulty using the spiritual gifts that God had given them.
 - b. They were sometimes using the gifts to attract attention for themselves.
 - c. Many of the people were unhappy.
 - d. Paul wrote this letter because it was possible for them to learn how to love one another.
 - e. Love helps us toward a better understanding of others and understanding helps us to love others better

4. The first test of love is to love our fellow man -
 - a. Are we shaping our attitudes in the way that we do what is best for our neighbor?
 - b. We can pass the test?

B. Love of God - V. 6

1. "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;"
2. Sincerity - genuine love for the truth that God has given
3. Hypocrisy is the opposite of genuine love for God.
4. Sincerity will take God's word and accept it!! - Jn. 14:15

C. Love of Self - v.7

1. Loving our self is not easy but is basic to loving others and God.
2. We are going to have to learn to love ourselves before we love anybody else.
3. "love thy neighbour as thyself." Mt. 22:37-39
 - a. Love God with all heart, soul, and mind.
 - b. Love neighbour
 - c. Love self
4. Four things are mentioned in V. 7 that are characteristics of love that benefit self:
 - a. "beareth all things" = spiritual strength - to bear burdens of life
 - b. "believeth all things" = accept truth - Open mindedness - not prejudiced
 - c. "hopeth all things" = optimism - Rm. 8:28 = look on bright side
 - d. "endureth all things" = faithfulness - reliable

D. Love is both important and possible and it is the greatest....

III. WHY LOVE IS THE GREATEST - I Cor. 13:8-13

- A. Love is great because it is permanent
1. These spiritual gifts are temporary - will pass away
 2. They were living in the childhood age of the church.
 3. These spiritual gifts were necessary at that time, but they would not continue.
 4. That which is perfect or mature is the complete revelation of God given to us in the N.T. When that is come then that which was in part, spiritual gifts, would no longer be needed.

B. Love is the Greatest!!

1. Spiritual gifts will pass away with time
2. But faith, hope and love will be essential as long as the church shall last!
3. But love is greater than faith and hope.
4. Why? Because love will continue after faith has turned to sight and hope has given way to glad fruition.
5. We now have faith that Jesus is the Son of God, that there is a heaven, but in heaven we will have knowledge of these things.
6. We now entertain a hope of heaven and of living with Christ, but in heaven we will no longer hope for these things, for "hope that is seen is not hope." Rm. 8:24
7. Love will still endure - because God is love

Conclusion

1. Love properly applied means to love God with all of the heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbour as our self.
2. God is love - Christ the son of God is love - he desires us to love.
3. I Cor. 13 is a portrait of love.
 - a. It comes out as a portrait of Jesus Christ because He is Love
 - b. Christ would like to reproduce His portrait in us and to have His church be a collection of reprints.
4. Love cannot be defined philosophically or ideologically - one can only describe how it functions.
 - a. The Bible doesn't define love - It only describes it in action
 - b. In I Cor. 13:4-7 Paul uses verbs to describe how love acts, rather than defining love with adjectives.

5. Perfect love
 - a. Jn. 4:16-18 describes perfect love
 - b. God is love
 - c. Our love is made perfect when we dwell in love
6. Loverly is the word to describe how we ought to live - which is the more excellent way!
7. I Cor. 14:1 "Follow After charity..."
 - a. NIV "follow the way of love"
 - b. NKJV "pursue love"
 - c. LNT "Let love be your greatest aim"
 - d. SEB "Follow the loving way"
8. Be Loverly

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