

The Value of Love

Int.

1. Aim: To show that unless we have love nothing we do is profitable!
2. The love chapter I Corinthians 13 - has been called the Hymn of Love
 - a. It has: The value of love, the characteristics of love and the lasting quality of love!
 - b. We will notice the Value Of LOVE in verses 1-3
3. Charity = does not properly express the idea clearly
 - a. We use charity to talk about giving alms
 - b. Love is more accurate word
 - c. English word LOVE is from Teutonic word which means to live. Love is the means and preserver of life!
 - d. Using charity here is almost like using charity in Jn.3:16 "For God had such charity for the world that he gave his only begotten son."
 - e. The word is LOVE
4. What is love?
 - a. It is not passion = for it seeks its own pleasure
 - b. Love denies itself for the good of the one loved.
 - c. The test or measure of love is how much we are willing to sacrifice for the good of the one loved.
 - i. The test of a mothers love for her child = how much of her pleasure will she give up for the good of the child.
 - ii. Test of a husband's love is how much of his selfish pleasure he will deny himself to make his wife happy

- iii. The test of a child's love, for its parents is how much he will deny his pleasures to please the parents.
- d. Love looks to the good of the one loved.
 - i. I Jn. 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."
 - ii. Love toward God is an act of sacrificing my will to do His will. Love is an act of self-sacrifice.
- 5. Paul shows that love is of great value for a person can have all of these things and be nothing without love.

Discussion

I. LANGUAGES WITHOUT LOVE v. 1

A. Eloquence

1. Tongues of men - the word tongue means languages
 - a. Languages or dialects which men speak
 - b. Ability to speak the languages of the 70 nations.
 - c. There are about 100 languages in the world today.
 - d. How many people can speak all of the human languages? None. It is impossible to speak every single language of the globe, even a little - let alone perfectly.
 - e. There were people in the first century who had the spiritual gift that enabled them to speak in other languages.
 - (1) Paul had it. 1 Cor. 14:18 "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;"
 - (2) The apostles spoke in other languages in Acts 2

2. Tongues of angels
 - a. Languages which angels use. I do not know how they communicate.
 - b. Language of the eternal world.
 - c. But if a man could speak that language, that would be wonderful
3. Have the gift of an orator
 - a. The ability to use any and every language with great skill
 - b. Be able to cause people to respond by talking to them
 - c. Hold their interest, communicate with them by words.

B. Without Love

1. Without life and feeling
2. A man could be very skillful in speaking yet not have love.
3. Refusing to do his duty to God and man shows a lack of love

C. Useless

1. Sounding brass - piece of metal that is hit to make noise - senseless noise
2. Tinkling cymbal - clanging loud noise
3. Gift of eloquence without love amounts to nothing.
4. Without love tongues are Just a sound or echo!
5. The best speech on earth by a very gifted orator is nothing but noise if it is delivered without love.
6. The orator without love is nothing in the sight of God!
7. The power of a tongue is not in a large vocabulary but in love

D. He was not degrading speaking

1. Paul was showing that these gifts of speaking in other languages was not the greatest thing in the world.
2. He was showing them a better way.
3. That is the way of love.
4. A person could have had the gift of tongues but still be lost in sin.
5. Tongues in the 1st century had a purpose but they ceased. V. 8
6. But even then they were nothing without love.

E. Without love the most skilled preacher or speaker is nothing but noise.

1. If you have the ability to speak to an audience of people and convince them through words to do certain things and act in a special way, but you are not motivated by love, then it is nothing.
2. To be able to play an audience with words like a master plays a piano is an act that some men have mastered. But it is wasted without love.

F. Love is valuable.

II. PROPHECIES, MYSTERIES, KNOWLEDGE & FAITH v. 2

A. Gifts of:

1. Prophecy = gift of revelation - one who speaks for another
2. Mysteries = secrets which divine revelation can make known through revelation
3. Knowledge = understanding of all revealed truth
4. No prophet or apostle ever knew all the mysteries or had all knowledge
5. Yet if he did but had not love It would be of no value.

B. All Faith

1. Gift of H.S. with ability to work miracles
2. If a person had so much faith he could work a great wonder like removing a mountain, or perform a seeming impossible task!
3. Mark 11:23

C. And Have not love

1. If we have all the knowledge of the Bible and understand all the teachings and great mysteries
 - a. Knowledge without love kills, but with love, knowledge gives life
 - b. Knowledge without love is ugly, but with love it is beautiful.
 - c. 1 Cor. 8:1b "Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies."
2. If we have the greatest faith of anyone on this earth
3. And not have love for God & man !

D. I Am Nothing

1. Love for God is more Important and valuable than all supernatural gifts
2. What profit is it if we know the entire Bible yet do not live by it because we do not have any love for God ! -- II Tim. 3:7
3. We spend time memorizing the ten commandments, beatitudes and other verses.
How much time do we spend developing a heart of love !
4. We must learn the will of God, but without love it will not do us any good!

E. LOVELESS KNOWLEDGE IS USELESS !!

1. No matter how strong your faith may be or how much knowledge of the Bible you may have learned...
2. It is all useless without love.

III. BESTOW GOODS -AND GIVE BODY v. 3

A. Benevolence without love

1. Love is self-sacrifice. But all self-sacrifice is not necessarily love.
2. Some people make a self-sacrifice out of fear or self-righteousness.
3. Bestow = to break off and distribute in small portions.
4. Charity - goods to the poor
5. He is talking about a sacrifice of all his goods to the poor!

B. Body to be burned

1. Willingness to suffer for one's faith
2. Die for the cause of Christ - may refer to burning at the stake
3. Become a martyr!

C. And have not love

1. It is possible to be charitable and not have love.
 - a. Some give as a duty or custom
 - b. Some may give to impress others - Acts 5:1ff - Ananias and Sapphira
2. Willingness to suffer for one's faith is no guarantee that it is from a heart of love
 - a. Death at the stake was popular for a time and many died for the attention and praise they would get.
 - b. One might be willing to die because of pride or stubbornness

D. It profiteth me nothing

1. No matter how much we sacrifice, if we do not have love, we are not benefitted.
2. The greatest gifts are nothing if love be absent.
3. Many deeds which appear to be sacrificial are the product of pride and not of love so profit nothing.
4. Charity without love is cruel and humiliating!
5. True giving is God-like! God loved and God Gave! Jn. 3:16
6. Love makes the gift a blessing to the receiver and for the one giving

E. ILLUSTRATION (Let me Illustrate by Donald Grey Barnhouse) "A crippled girl, living in the slums, underwent an operation that might enable her to walk again. When the operation was over, she needed a blood transfusion; her fourteen-year-old brother, a tough boy of the streets, volunteered. He was taken to the hospital, to the bedside of his crippled sister. He stared in tight-lipped silence while the vein in his arm was opened so that the blood might flow into the body of his unconscious sister. When it was over, the doctor put his hand on the boy's shoulder and told him that he was very brave. The boy did not comprehend; he had not understood the nature of a transfusion. After a moment, he looked up and said, "Doc, how long will it be before I die? As far as the boy was concerned he had been dying; slowly and willingly, he had bravely watched the blood flow - drop by drop, expecting his sister's life to mean his own death.

F. There, indeed, is the highest in human love. If this human love is to be seen in its highest degree, it will be through the words of Christ who said, "greater love hath no man than this, than to lay down his life for his friends." Jn.15:13

G. Romans 5:6-8

CONCLUSION

1. Love is the necessary foundation for all of our actions
 - a. A mother drew her 2 year old daughter to her and said "Oh, how I love you." The little girl jumped down and went on her way to play and said, "Yes, I know."
 - b. That child knew it was loved!
 - c. "We love him, because he first loved us." I Jn.4:19
 2. Remember when you first fell in love, people said, "He will get over it."
 3. That's what happened to God's children in the church at Ephesus "They got over it" or they ceased loving Christ FIRST! Rev. 2:4
 4. God save us from "getting over it"
 5. Gal. 6:10 ...let us not be weary in well doing!..." BE NOT WEARY IN LOVE !!!!
 - a. V. 1 = Talking without love
 - b. V. 2 = Knowing without love
 - c. V. 3 = Doing without love
 6. Languages, or prophecy, or knowledge, or faith, or benevolence, or martyrdom don't mean anything without love.
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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning Nov. 16, 2008
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