

# FAITH, HOPE, LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:8b-13

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

November 28, 2010 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Please open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 13. Page 813. Not tips and techniques, New Command ...

## Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

The church is supposed to be most loving, united, caring, giving place on earth. What happened?

**Jonathan Swift** - *"We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love."*

Trouble in Corinth ... Superiority complex. Fictious, mean-spirited, unloving, hateful. Gifted / Graceless.

They were growing older (more knowledge), but they had yet to grow UP (lacking grace).

**vv. 1-3** Gifts and abilities are worthless if not given and exercised with love. What we say, what we know and what we do are worthless if not accompanied by LOVE.

**vv. 4-8a** Description of what love is and what love is not. 15 characteristics. 8 weeks investigating. Left each week feeling challenged and motivated rather than discouragement and failure.

**vv. 8-13** God's love is perfect, designed to transform us, so that our love will be made perfect. GUARA.

### v. 8 **Love is eternal ... God's love lasts forever.**

**1 Corinthians 13:8 (NIV) 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.**

**Gifts are temporary ... but love is eternal. Our love may run out, God's never will. Reservoir.**

Choosing to love, God's love pouring, probably the best investment you made over the past few days.

Ill. That person who is difficult for you to be around.

When we get to heaven, we will no longer need gifts, we will be perfect and complete. In the meantime we are given gifts to express love, WHEN OUR LOVE RUNS OUT GOD'S LOVE FLOWS.

? How did you pour forth the love you did not have during Thanksgiving gathering? Praising God for it?

**vv. 9,10,11** <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. <sup>11</sup>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 childish ways behind me.

### **Love is faultless ... God's love is perfect.**

**Jesus command in John 13:34,35 ... "Love one another as I have loved you ... "** I can't even begin to get close to that kind of love. **Our love is imperfect.** Doesn't mean throw up our hands and quit trying.

### **v. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,**

Impossible for us to understand. We don't have all the answers. Anyone who says they do is either deluded, arrogant or a liar. Tension arises because we have questions we can't answer.

Why would God allow? How could He possibly use such unthinkable tragedy? Why hasn't he healed me, or given me a loving spouse or children or a healthy family? Why hasn't God answered my prayers?

We don't have good answers, explanations for the ways of God. SORRY!

**That's where faith comes in ... as we see through a glass darkly ... EXERCISING FAITH**

### **v. 10 ... but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.**

What is perfection? Who is perfection?

Some say this refers to the completion of the NT. Refers to Jesus, when He returns to make all things new.

Perfect demonstration of God's love. He is PERFECT.

When we see Him, we'll know how much God loves us. We will know God's perfect love. IF only knew!



Ill. father who embraced lost son ... embrace, looked in his eye, saw his heart. He knew.

We don't have all the answers NOW but one day we will. **Hang onto HOPE** (Won't Stop Believin')

When Jesus comes, it will all make sense. Until then, we see only a partial picture; we have questions.

***v. 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 childish ways behind me.***

We still have some growing to do. **Growing in LOVE.** The question is always, what does God want me to do to love that person? Especially the one I struggle with? Grace?

Struggle ill. Personal; at times divine, "who is that?" ... other times, sorely lacking, "that's not my heart".

Not enough to grow in knowledge, quote scripture, exercise gifts ... without grace, it all falls apart.

Until Jesus returns, exercise faith, hang on to hope, grow in grace of love ... not perfect love, growing.

**Love is eternal ... God's love is eternal. Love is faultless ... God's love is perfect.**

**Love is transforming ... God's love changes everything.** v. 12

***1 Corinthians 13:12-13 (NIV) <sup>12</sup> Now we see but a poor 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.***



Ill. eat, pray; love ... One woman's search for everything in Italy, India and Indonesia.

Only going to end the search and find everything when we meet face-to-face with God.

Dangerous to find yourself face-to-face; OT you would die. Elijah saw the "back-side" of God.

Ill. woman who had a falling out with her sister. Longed to see her face-to-face. Then she'd know.

When we meet God ... we will know. See his heart ... not just through the Son who died or the Spirit who indwells, but face-to-face.

When we meet God we will find LOVE we've been longing for; we will find what we've been searching for.

Right now, poor reflection in mirror. Obsessed with self, focus on us. Corinthians were obsessed with

themselves (appearance), bronze mirrors everywhere. Not like our mirrors "fun house" state fair.

Look at self ... poor reflection of Christ. One day ... Look into God's face, see the love in His eyes.

**Nothing to fear. *1 John 4:18 (NIV) "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear ..."***

Conclusion:

Tips for dealing with drama in the family? Exercise faith, hang on to hope, invite transformation.

Celebrate the gifts, seek the gifts, exercise the gifts ... but even more than that, pour out love.

***<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.***