

Seeking Holy Ground in 2023: Real Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

February 12, 2023

Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

1 Corinthians 13:1-13: "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 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 the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a 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. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. Failed _____ of conditional love

Self-_____: If I speak to wow people with my importance, even if my eloquence seems angelic but I do not have a self-giving love then I become nails scratching a blackboard.

1 Corinthians 13:1 (JOT)

Hollow _____: If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

1 Corinthians 13:3 (MSG)

2. _____ the power of God's love

_____ for truth: Love rejoices with the truth... Human love can only see reality as a distorted mirror that is a riddle rather than a revelation! But God's love brings the genuine light of truth to our lives so that we will reflect this light into our world.

1 Corinthians 13:6b, 12a (JOT)

_____ yourself: Love is patient, love is kind... We know only part of the total picture. Yet there is a dynamic at work with God's love: as we seek to share God's love with others, we come to know God's love for us.

1 Corinthians 13:4, 12b (JOT)

Join _____: Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes.... Presently, we are not complete in our love. We have three strands that give us strength: trusting in God, hoping for the best in ourselves and others, and loving as Christ has loved us. Each of these are great but love is the greatest because it strengthens faith and

1 Corinthians 13:7, 13 (JOT)

3. Overcoming _____, conditional love

_____ to a higher love: The Lord is my Shepherd, I will not need anything...I am drunk with the cup of your goodness...your loving mercy is tracking me down so I can dwell in your home forever!

Psalms 23:1, 5b-6 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

Where do you need to sacrifice your selfishness to find a greater love? Will you try to love with fewer conditions? Or will you accept the unconditional love of Jesus Christ? Accept what Christ has done for you so that you will find the source of unconditional love! Admit that you need God's love and forgiveness, and the love of Christ will fill your heart! This week read 1 Corinthians 13 and Romans 5 in a modern translation to know that you are loved with a great love!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message.