

Sermon Title: "LOVE IS AN ELEVATOR"

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Holy Spirit

The Corinthian Christians wrongly considered spiritual activity as the highest goal, and so naturally, those who exhibited the most extraordinary spiritual gifts considered themselves to be the most spiritual people in the church.

While Paul affirms the value of spiritual gifts and their effects, there is a higher perspective, a more spiritual perspective, which Paul is concerned for them to see (cf. 1 Cor. 12.31).

Our level of spirituality is never measured by the gifts we have or the effects they produce, but by the love we show.

1. The Need for Love is Greater than You Know (1 Cor. 13.1-3)

Love is the supreme characteristic that God demands of his people.

- _____ without Love are nothing (vv.1-2)
- _____ without Love is nothing (v.3)

2. The Nature of Love Goes Deeper than Your Actions (1 Cor 13.4-7)

- The Qualities of Genuine Love (all verbs...)
- Some Observations:
 - 1 Corinthians 13 is not human love that originates in our nature, but love which comes from the heart of God and is _____ in origin (Rom. 5.5).
 - Love is never centered upon the _____, but is focused on _____, in order to lift them up, not bring them down.
 - None of us loves perfectly, but the Holy Spirit is actively _____ us into the image of God's Son (1 John 4.17).

Questions for discussion for House Churches, Triads and Devotions

- 1) What was the Corinthian problem that led the apostle Paul to write what he did in 1 Corinthians 13?
- 2) Read Matthew 7.22-24. What can people expect who might imagine some praise from Christ for depending on their spiritual gifts alone, instead of deeds empowered by love?
- 3) When we ignore the priority of love in our life, what might this say about our sense of knowing who God is through Christ?
- 4) Read Romans 5:5. Can a non-Christian love as Paul describes it? Why or why not?
- 5) Think about how you live your life for Christ. Do your activities have the character of love behind them? Is your service more motivated by what accrues to you or motivated by what you can do to elevate (build up) others?
- 6) What keeps us from loving well?

Fill-in answers: gifts, goodness, supernatural, self, others, forming