

1 Corinthians

Doctrine and Judgment

Class #10

Chapter 12:12 thru Chapter 13:8a

Joey: Doctrine or Judgment? 12:12-27

The Baptism of the Spirit and Our Placement into Christ's Body

12 For as the *human* body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ's *body*.

-This very well may be a reference to Christ's Body, and it is Christ's Body just as Jesus said to Saul on the Damascus road why do you persecute me. He did not say why do you persecute my church, but me, my personal self, my body!

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink (*thirst quencher is: Jesus, see John 7:37-39*) into one Spirit.

-Guzik: But here, Paul does not have in mind water baptism as much as Spirit baptism: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Paul here is writing of the common "immersion" all believers have in the Holy Spirit and in Jesus, a common "immersion" which brings them into one body.

-Carson: The oneness of the body, the church, predicated on the fact that all its members have been baptized in one spirit into this body, is now applied to the problems in Corinth.

-Some verses on this baptism into Christ's Body

-Gal. 3:26-27

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

-Col. 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

-Rom. 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

-Chafer on Baptism by the Spirit

What is termed the Baptism by the Spirit—not, in or unto the Spirit—is His mighty undertaking by which He joins the individual believer to Christ's Body and thus to Christ Himself as the Head of the Body. Because of this great achievement on the part of the Spirit, the believer is from that moment 'in Christ' and is thus brought under the influence of His Headship. No influence could be more transforming, more purifying relative to position, or more vital in its outworking than that engendered by a removal from the fallen headship of Adam into the exalted Headship of Christ. No other transformation is comparable to this. Though there is no physical intusposition (*a placing into*) when one is brought under the influence which the gift of the Spirit provides and though there is no physical intusposition when one is brought by the Spirit into the Headship of the resurrected Christ, the New Testament designates these influences as baptisms and sets them forth as vital and real above all other baptisms. Especially is union to Christ seen to be distinctive in point of far-reaching transformations. It is thus properly designated the real baptism.

-MacArthur: It should also be noted that the phrase "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is not a correct translation of any passage in the New Testament, including this one. *En heni pneumati* (by one Spirit) can mean "by or with one Spirit." Because believers are baptized by Christ, it is therefore best to translate this phrase as "with one Spirit." It is not the Holy Spirit's baptism but Christ's baptism *by means of* the Holy Spirit that gives us new life and places us into the Body when we trust in Christ

14 For in fact the body is not one member but many *kinds of members*.

15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

-The subtle implication here may be that some were convinced that they not considered a part of the church because they were not like or did follow what another group believed or looked like or they were not of a particular social order in Corinth.

17 If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where *would be* the smelling?

18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

19 And if they *were* all one member, where would the body be?

-Just think of how ridiculous and incomplete a body of only ears would be!

The sum of vs. 12-19 is this

20 But now indeed *there are many diverse members, yet one body*.

No Unimportant Members

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

23 And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty,

24 but our presentable *parts* have no need *of deliberate public honor*. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it,

The Fruit of this teaching will be evident ..

25 *in order that there should be no schism (tear or split) in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.*

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it *without envy*.

27 Now you (*plural Corinthian Christians*) are the *singular* body of Christ, and members individually.

-Here we learn that the Local Church is the Body of Christ

-There is a universal one body of Christ, but each local body is also the Body of Christ

-we see the one universal one body of Christ in these verses:

-1Cor. 12:13 For by one Spirit we (*Paul included here*) were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

-Eph. 2:16 and that He might reconcile them (*Jews and Gentiles*) both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

John: Doctrine or Judgment? 12:28-31

God's Organizational Priorities in the Church

28 And God has appointed (*set, put into place*) these in the church:

-‘appointed’, here God appoints, in Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed Elders in every church.

-Which is it? Man had better seek the Lord to determine whom He has appointed and not appoint otherwise.

-In the ‘**church**’ versus in the ‘**body of Christ**’

-First use of ‘church’ in chapter 12 otherwise it has been ‘body’

-‘Body’ implies a unified ‘one’ but it is diverse in members and functions as a living organism

-‘Church’ implies an organization, it is not a figure of speech like ‘body’ is.

-we can say that the first three emphasize the persons who oversee and equip these ministries, while the final five emphasize the ministry itself.

v.28 cont. ... first apostles, second prophets, third teachers,

-Guzik: Apostles: are “special APOSTOLIC ambassadors” of the church. Paul and others in his day had a unique apostolic authority, which will never be repeated because the foundation of the church has already been set (**see** Ephesians 2:19-22). However, God still has His “special apostle ambassadors” in the church today, though not with the same authority as the original apostles.

-As Paul said in **1Cor. 9:1-5**

9:1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

3 My defense to those who examine me is this:

4 Do we have no right to eat and drink?

5 Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

And in

2Cor. 12:11-12

11 I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds (*powers, one word*).

-Pillar: prophets seem to have been more attuned to the particular message a church needed to hear at any given moment while **teachers** were expected to pass on the same Christian teaching that needed to be learned by all believers in all places.

-Guzik: Prophets are those particularly called to speak forth for God with the gift of prophecy. There was a unique, foundational authority to this gift as well (Ephesians 2:19–22). However, God raises up those to speak to the church and the world with a special blessing and power.

-Pastor Teachers are equippers of the saints for the work of the ministry.

-Carson on teachers: [teachers] were mature Christians who instructed others in the meaning and moral implications of Christian faith;... possibly (as some think) they expounded the Christian meaning of the Old Testament.

after that miracles (*powers*),

-Guzik: Those used of God to do miracles. Yet, the Biblical pattern is for miracles to be done on the Holy Spirit’s initiative (*as He wills!*), not the initiative of the individual.

-As Paul describes them in **2Cor. 12:12 mighty deeds** (*one word powers or miracles*)

then gifts of healings,

-Again as the Holy Spirit wills

-Multiple gifts and different or for different kinds of healing

helps,

-Guzik: This has in mind those who help, or assist, others in doing the work of the Lord. The term was used in Jewish context in this way: “The Levites were termed by the Talmudists helps of the priests.”

-Remember the Holy Spirit is known as the Help-mate

-the ability or capacity to help or assist

administrations,

-Means literally 'to guide a ship', thus leadership in the church

-Qualifications for leadership are found in 1Tim. 3, both Elder and Deacon leadership.

varieties of or nationalities of tongues.

-Speaking unto God in a language you do not understand

-We will cover more on tongues in chapter 14

Driving home his earlier point of diversity of members

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

-The obvious answer is that in the functioning local no, not all have the same gifts!

-The appointing of who is in what office and who has what gifts is the Spirit's work and men only recognize and affirm and equip and give opportunity for use of their gifts!

31 But earnestly desire (one word: zealous, zealously) the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way to use those gifts.

-The gifts that best fit you and will enable you to edify the body of Christ and glorify its head, Jesus Christ

-Paul is not saying a more excellent way other than edifying gifts

-But the most excellent way to use the gifts of the H.S. that does not puff you up, edifies the members of the Body and glorifies the head.

-He affirms this in **14:1a** Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts..... do both!!

Joey: Doctrine or Judgment? 13:1-8a

Judgment

13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

-Notice that without love the gift may still be exercised, benefits maybe bestowed by the Holy Spirit, but the agent speaking has become something-a rude, obnoxious noise

2 And though I have *the gift* of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

-Again the one speaking the prophesy is in view, without love the effect is on the speaker not the recipient.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

-**Carson:** Now in verses 8-13, he picks up the contrast again, but with a new wrinkle. Here the contrast turns on the fact that love is permanent, while the *χαρίσματα* (charismata) terminate. That, too, demonstrates love's intrinsic superiority. Thus the statement love never fails also anticipates verse 13.

Doctrine ...

-Notice the three personal effects to the gift user who does not have love:

1- I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2- I am nothing

3- it profits me nothing or 'not'.

Actions or Restraints of Love 13:4-8a

4 Love suffers long *and* is kind (*goodness toward the underserving*); love does not envy; love does not parade (*boast about*) itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely (*dishonorably*), does not seek its own *desires*, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

-Eight: 'love does not'

-Three: 'love does'

Loves Abiding Characteristics 13:7-8a

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8a Love never fails (*falls out, drops out*).

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Joey: Doctrine or Judgment? 12:12-27

Doctrine

The Baptism of the Spirit and Our Placement in Christ's Body...

12 For as the *human* body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ's *body*.

What's Paul doing here?

Paul is comparing the body of Christ (the church) to a human body. Each part of the human body and the body of Christ has a specific function that is necessary to the body as a whole. The individual parts are different for a purpose.

- The word here all through this passage for the body is *soma*, the body as a sound whole.
 - Between verses 12 and 27 Paul used the word "body" sixteen times

Just as the human body is made up of many parts...the church is made up of many people with different gifts that perform different functions, yet they **all combine to make one functioning unit**—the body of Christ.

The Corinthians all wanted to speak in tongues or desired more spectacular manifestations of the Spirit's power, but Paul explained, that not everyone has the same gift, but they still form **one body**—the body of Christ.

Paul wanted the Corinthians to see their diversity as a good thing. Diversity can maintain unity as long as we submit to one Lord.

As Christians...we need to avoid two common mistakes:

1. Being too proud of our abilities...as if we were better than someone with a different ability. Ex. The mouth is more important than the big toe
2. Thinking that we have nothing to give to the body of believers.

Instead of comparing ourselves to one another, we should use our different gifts, together, to spread the Good News of salvation.

- What if our body parts starting arguing what role they wanted to be and what function they wanted to do?
 - What is my big toe said...I'm tired of being stuck inside this shoe, it's hot, it's stinks sometimes, no one can see me and I don't ever get any recognition
 - I'm gonna move up...
- What if all the parts wanted to do the same function?

13 For by *or in* one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Paul explains how we became members of the Body of Christ.

What gives us, as believers, our unity?

- The Holy Spirit that makes His home inside of us...
- The same Spirit who also gives us diversity through many and different gifts

We must never forget the most basic fact that unites us:

- We were all baptized by **one Spirit** into **one body**.
- We all received **the same Holy Spirit** at the time of conversion.

This “receiving” of the Spirit is here called being “baptized by” the Spirit. The metaphor pictures baptism and compares believers’ experience of water baptism to being set apart by the Holy Spirit.

- Set apart for specific functions within the body of Christ in order to build it up

The phrase “we were all given the one Spirit to drink” means that the same Holy Spirit completely fills all believers’ innermost beings.

The indwelling Holy Spirit unites all believers who might otherwise be as different as Jews from Greeks (Gentiles) or as a slave from a free person

- All of this happens apart from our race, social status, or personal backgrounds

14 For in fact the body is not one member but many *kinds of members*.

15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? **16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? **17** If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where *would be* the smelling?

Morgan calls this... self-depreciation.

The foot, the hand, the ear or the eye are neither superior or inferior to one another.

For a body to function, this diversity is essential. Individual members cannot separate themselves without harming the body. Just as a foot cannot decide to leave the body because it is not a hand, so a believer who does not have a particular gift cannot decide that he or she is not a part of the church.

- Not having a particular gift would not make that person any less a part of the body.
- Some believers in Corinth were discouraged that they did not have a particular gift, probably one of the more spectacular gifts, such as the gift of tongues, so they believed that they could not be a part of the body unless they possessed that particular gift. Not true!

Paul explains, through this metaphor, that all the different gifts given by the Holy Spirit to believers have to be utilized in order for the church to function well.

Likewise, the gifts are interdependent. Like the body, they cannot function without each other.

The parts of the body should desire to perform only the functions that they were made for, not seeking other parts. The ear may prefer to be able to see, like the eye, but that does not mean that the ear is any less a part of the body.

The ear will no more be changed into an eye or given the ability to see than a believer will be able to exchange one gift for another.

HERE IS THE GOAL:

Each believer should discover his or her spiritual gift and then use it to its fullest capacity for the Lord.

- Be faithful to function in the gift(s) that have been given to you

18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

Think about that...It pleased God to set right where He placed you in the body of Christ! Can He make a mistake with His placement? Did your shipping label get mixed up or mislabeled when He placed you? NO

19 And if they *were* all one member, where would the body be?

- Think about all the moving parts that need to function together for just one service at CCR
- The body of Christ is much larger than one service at CCR
 - What would get accomplished if everyone was the same?

20 But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body.

No Unimportant Members...

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

- Don't look down on one another; appreciate each other gifts
- Each individual part needs to realize its own importance, but all the other parts should realize their interdependence on the other parts as well.

MORGAN:

If in the first movement he showed that in the body there was to be no self-depreciation, now he is showing there is to be no depreciation of others, no member of the body can say to another member of the body, I have no need of you. In order to the functioning of the body in its entirety, in order to the fulfilment of its purpose, and for the living of- its life, the eye and the hand, the head and the foot are absolutely necessary.

At once there comes before us the picture of the body, co-operating and acting under the mastery of the head; and there is no member in your body that has any right to say, I am not important, I do not count; and there is not one that can say he or she is of no account. You and I are dependent upon every member in the body, in the functioning of that great Body of Christ.

22 No *on the contrary, much rather they are even more necessary, those members of the body which seem to be weaker less important members are necessary or indispensable!*

The more honored members can't look down on the less visible members because Paula says, those who seem to be weaker are actually indispensable.

These “weaker” members are those who appear to be less important in the body. These people may not be always visible, always up front exercising their gifts, but they are in the background. If they are being faithful to use their God-given gifts, they are actually indispensable to the body of Christ.

Those with the visible gifts could not function to their full capacity without the other indispensable members utilizing their gifts.

- The pastor is the mouth piece for God, but he will not be effective if the other members are not utilizing their gifts to greet people, to make sure the building is maintained and clean, to lead the worship service, to make sure equipment is working properly, to follow up on people with needs, or to pray faithfully for the ministry.

23 And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, **24** but our presentable *parts* have no need of deliberate public honor. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it,

The parts of our bodies normally covered by clothes are often considered **less honorable**, but we give them **greater honor** by clothing them so carefully.

Clarke on the less honorable parts: “Seem to mean the principle viscera, such as heart, lungs, stomach and intestinal canal. These, when compared with the arms and limbs, are comparatively weak; and some of them, considered in themselves, uncomely and less honorable; yet these are more essential to life than any of the others.”

MacArthur:

Those organs are more hidden than the others but also are more vital. You can notice the breathing of your lungs and the pulse of your heartbeat, but their work is not nearly as obvious as what we do with our hands or feet. Those less noticed parts (internal organs) **seem to be weaker** than much of the rest of the body (external limbs), but they also are more **necessary**. Consequently they are more guarded by the skeleton and the rest of the body.

They are more vital and more vulnerable and are therefore given more protection. You can live without legs, but not without lungs.

God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it: If someone feels they are a “hidden” or “unglamorous” member of the body of Jesus Christ, God knows how to bestow honor upon them.

For what purpose?

25 that there should be no schism (division) **in the body,**

Remember what Paul said in 1st Corinthians 1:10

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Vs 25b but that the members should have the same care for one another.

“Same care for one another” is demonstrated as we share in each another’s joys and sorrows.

As with the physical, human body, one part’s suffering causes every part to suffer. When your head aches, the whole body suffers. When you hit your thumb with a hammer, your whole body knows it.

- When you have the flu and someone asks you where you hurt...I ache everywhere.

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it without envy.

In vs 25, Paul says, if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it. Believers should share one another’s burdens in order to help lighten them.

Likewise, if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. There is no room for jealousy or strife when one person receives praise; instead, we all should be rejoice.

27 Now you (Corinthian Christians) are the body of Christ, and members individually.

- We need to realize that we need each other, we need to respect one other and sympathize with one another.

- No believer is unimportant—each one has a gift to share in order to make the body of Christ function much more effectively.

John: Doctrine or Judgment? 12:28-31

Doctrine...

God's Organizational Priorities in the Church

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

- Not an exhaustive list
 - See Ephesians 4
 - See Romans 12

What's the point?

29 Are all apostles? *Are* all prophets? *Are* all teachers? *Are* all workers of miracles?

30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

- No...give gifts as He wills

31 But earnestly desire the best gifts.

What's the best gifts?

- Whatever gifts is needed to meet the need in front of you

And yet I show you a more excellent way.

- Developed in Chapter 13

Joey: Doctrine or Judgment?

In chapter 12, Paul gave evidence of the Corinthians' lack of love in the utilization of spiritual gifts; chapter 13 defines real love; and chapter 14 shows how love works. Spiritual gifts are important to the functioning of the body (12:12–31), but they lose their value if love is not behind them.

What really matters...

13:1 Though I speak with the tongues (languages) of men and of angels, but have not *God's sacrificial and unconditional love for all people*, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. *a loud reverberating sound!*

The word “brass.” It comes from old Greek that referred to metal. However, it wasn’t just any metal; it was bronze or copper with a small amount of tin that had been added. This tin caused the metal to have a hollow, empty sound when it was beaten. That is why Paul also used the word “sounding” — the Greek word echo, which described a noise that reverberates or echoes. When these two words were used together, they portrayed the endless beating of metal that produces a hollow, annoying, irritating echo that seems to eternally reverberate.

Paul used an illustration from the pagan world of Corinth to make his point about super-spiritual people who demonstrate no love. The illustration he chose to use was the endless, nonstop, annoying, aggravating, irritating, violent beating and clanging of brass that was performed in pagan worship and that echoed constantly throughout the city of Corinth. The citizens of Corinth could never escape the endless banging of this metal, so this was an illustration everyone in the Corinthian church could really understand.

This nonstop clanging noise also became the word people used to describe a person who talked nonstop.

- these people talked incessantly, annoying and aggravating others with their never-ending, self-consumed chatter.

People who say a lot and claim a lot, but who don’t have a life to match their words, Paul says that those people are a lot of empty, shallow, clanging, banging noises that eventually become an irritant to all who are hear them.

We may possess any spiritual gift, the Corinthians didn’t **come short in no gift** (1st Corinthians 1:7), but if it is **unaccompanied** by love... it is useless.

- “**clanging cymbal**” Let me give you a mental picture...
 - **What’s the most annoying sound to you?**
 - Nails on a chalkboard, smoke alarm, car alarm at 4:00 am
 - What if that’s what worship sounded like...cymbals have a place in worship
 - It’s not a solo act...clang, clang, clang. Neither are we
 - WHAT AN ANNOYING DISTRACTION!
 - That’s what we are like when we are not functioning from God’s love

MacArthur:

Paul simply is saying that, were a person to have the ability to speak with the skill and eloquence of the greatest men, even with angelic eloquence, he would only become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal if he did not have love.

The gift of language is especially meaningless without love. Paul chooses this as his illustration of **lovelessness** because it was a sought-after experience that made the people proud. One of the results of the Corinthians' trying to use that gift in their own power and for their own selfish and proud ends was that it could not be ministered in love. Because they did not walk in the Spirit, they did not have the fruit of the Spirit and could not properly minister the gifts of the Spirit. Because the most important fruit was missing from what they thought was the most important gift, their exercising the gift became nothing more than babble.

2 And though I have *the gift* of prophecy, and understand **all mysteries and **all knowledge**, and though I have **all faith**, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, **I am nothing**.**

We can receive spectacular revelations from God. We might **understand** the great **mysteries** of God, tremendous truths previously hidden from us, but now made known to us. We might receive great divine **knowledge**, supernaturally imparted. We might be given that courageous **faith** which is able to **remove mountains**. If we use these wonderful gifts for own benefit and not for the edifying of other members of the Body of Christ, they are of no value, and the vessel is **nothing**, we are no help to others.

MacArthur:

The power behind what we say and what we do is our motive. If our motive is self-interest, praise, promotion, or advantage of any sort, our influence for the Lord will be undercut to that extent—no matter how orthodox, persuasive, and relevant our words are or how helpful our service seems superficially to be. Without the motivation of love, in God's sight we are only causing a lot of commotion.

I am nothing. We have no real identity...without God's love

- Who would we be apart from His love?
- Where would we be without His love?

3 And though I bestow **all my goods** to feed *the poor*, Matthew 19:16-22

Rich Young Ruler...what was his big problem?

- Love misplaced...for the wrong things
 - Even if the rich young ruler had done what Jesus said, but didn't do it motivated by love, it would have been no profit to him. Why?
 - Wrong motive!

MacArthur:

The power behind what we say and what we do is our motive. If our motive is self-interest, praise, promotion, or advantage of any sort, our influence for the Lord will be undercut to that extent—no matter how orthodox, persuasive, and relevant our words are or how helpful our service seems superficially to be. Without the motivation of love, in God's sight we are only causing a lot of commotion.

and though I give my body to be burned (sacrifice yourself) , **but have not love, it profits** (helps or accomplishes) **me nothing**. *I gain nothing by doing it*

- Give all your stuff away to benefit others, martyred for your faith and love is not what motivated it...no credit in your spiritual bank account
- Jesus sacrificed Himself and was completely motivated by love

You have All, but you are nothing...You do all this stuff and it profits you nothing apart from love.

- God's math

The love test...what God's love should and should not look like...

These powerful verses are like a mirror...We look at these verses, they show us if we are a reflection of the kind of love God wants us to exhibit toward others.

- Some of these may prick you...thanks ok. We're growing

4 Love suffers long (endurance or patient despite difficulties)

- literally, "long-tempered." "long fuse"

Love is willing to wait for others. Love is willing to give others the benefit of the doubt.

This love is ready to forbear and patiently wait until a certain person finally comes around, makes progress, changes, or hears what you are trying to communicate or teach them. This is the picture of a person whose feelings for someone else are so passionate that they don't easily give up and bow out; instead,

they keep on going and going and going, even though the other person doesn't quickly respond to him. – Spiritual energizer bunny :)

How long is long?

- Way longer than you want it to be
 - Isn't God longsuffering with us?
- World' view
 - Love if there is something in it for you...
 - Love if it feels good...
 - Love is a feeling right?
 - Wrong! It's a decision
 - God's love goes the distance with people even if they never change
 - Suffering long doesn't necessarily guarantee that you will see the spiritual fruit that you want
 - Remember that you will be rewarded for faithfulness; not for the results
- Does this attribute describe God The Father?
- Does it describe you and me?

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the *agape* love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

poured out - a pouring forth, a discharge, a spilling out, or something that is dispersed in abundance.

In other words, God has magnificently bestowed on you sufficient love to be longsuffering in any relationship or situation.

- This means we don't have to come up with this supernatural love by ourselves.

After long suffers long, it's...

and is kind;

- What other English word do you associate with kind? Nice
 - doing good to someone as an act of kindness

What God's unconditional and sacrificial love doesn't look like...

love does not envy;

- *to have intense negative feelings over another's achievements or success, be filled with jealousy, envy toward someone*

It portrays a person who is totally consumed with their own desires and plans. This is a person so bent on getting their own way that they are willing to sacrifice anything or anyone to get it. You might describe this person as being wrongly ambitious and self-centered.

love does not parade itself, *boastful exhibiting self-importance*

a person who endlessly promotes themselves and exaggerates their own qualities. Their self-promotion is so outrageous that they are usually prone to exaggeration that borders on lying. One Greek scholar has said that the word pictures a person who is full of hot air. Another expositor has said this word refers to a windbag!

is not puffed up;

a person who is filled with pride...full of themselves

also carries the notion of a person who has an air of superiority and haughtiness or a person who is snooty or snobbish in his dealings with other people.

- 6 of the 7 occurrences are found in 1st Corinthians
 - Colossians 2:18 is the other occurrence
 - None as used to describe the trinity

5 does not behave rudely,

behave disgracefully, dishonorably, indecently

a person who is tactless or thoughtless. It also expresses the notion of a person who is careless and inconsiderate of others. Their actions and words tend to be rude and discourteous, and they exhibit bad manners in the way they deal with people. Their language is harsh and brutal, revealing that this person is uncaring, insensitive, and unkind. We would say that this is a person who “acts ugly.”

- 2 occurrences in 1st Corinthians. Here and 7:36

does not seek its own,

it's not selfish; does not serve itself...it serves others

A picture of someone so bent on getting their way that they'll twist the facts; look for loopholes; put words in other people's mouths; try to hold others accountable for promises they never made; use someone's else's mistakes as opportunities to twist someone's arm; or seek various other schemes to turn situations to his benefit. The image of a manipulating, scheming person

is not provoked,

- People push your buttons?
 - Do you react or respond in love?
 - One of the fruits of the Spirit is self-control
 - We have a choice to make in that moment
 - Disable the button

thinks no evil; what it doesn't look like...

An accounting term that would be better translated to count or to reckon. It literally meant to credit to someone's account.

Before us is the image of a bookkeeper who meticulously keeps accurate financial records. But in this case, the bookkeeper is an offended person who keeps detailed records of every wrong that was ever done to him. Just as a bookkeeper has an entry for every debit and credit on the books, this person painstakingly stores in his memory all the mistakes, faults, grievances, disappointments, failures, or perceived wrongdoings that someone has made against him. Rather than forgive and let it go, the offended person has carefully maintained records of each action done to him that he deemed unjust or unfair.

This is certainly not the way God's love behaves!

- We'd be doomed if it did

6 does not rejoice in iniquity,

“Love does not feel overjoyed when it sees an injustice done to someone else....”

What God's unconditional and sacrificial love looks like...

but rejoices in the truth;

“...Love is elated, thrilled, ecstatic, and overjoyed with the truth.”

Ask yourself:

- Do I rejoice when I hear bad news about someone who did me wrong in the past? Or does it break my heart to hear about the problems that person is facing?
- When someone steps into the blessing I've been believing for in my own life, am I elated for that person, or does it make me turn green with envy?

7 bears all things,

concept of protection, exactly as a roof protects, shields, and guards the inhabitants of a house from exposure to the outside influences of weather. The roof of a house is designed to shield people from storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, rain, hail, snow, wind, blistering hot temperatures, and so on. This protection is vital for survival in most climates, preventing people from either freezing to death or burning as a result of continual exposure to sunlight.

agape serves like a protection for you. Like the roof of a house, a friend who moves in the agape love of God will stay near in times of trouble. That friend will hover over you to protect you from the storms of life. Rather than expose you and your flaws to the view of others, a person who operates in this kind of love will conceal, cover, and protect you, for real agape love is always there in times of trouble to lend support.

“Love protects, shields, guards, covers, conceals, and safeguards people from exposure....”

believes all things,

“...Love strains forward with all its might to believe the very best in every situation....”

hopes all things,

“...Love always expects and anticipates the best in others and the best for others....”

endures all things.

...Love never quits, never surrenders, and never gives up.”

8a *God's unconditional and sacrificial Love never fails.*

– It's Permanent

- Think of how many things in our lives that fail...things that don't last
 - Cars
 - Appliances
 - Stock market

Did some of these prick you a bit?

- Allow them to prick you; not condemn you
 - We are a work in Progress