

Sermon: Love's Definition

Text: [1 Corinthians 13:1-13 ESV](#)

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Introduction: Much has been expressed about love over the centuries. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthian Church breaks in on a discussion about spiritual gifts to tell them of a more excellent way ([1 Corinthians 12:31b](#)) to relate to the Body of Christ. Love is a common theme and topic throughout Scripture. [1 John 4:8 ESV](#) 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Love can certainly be defined by:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

Conclusion: At some point, Jesus will ask us the same type of question that was asked of Peter. [John 21:15 ESV](#) 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

Faith is more than a belief statement or reciting a creed. Repentance involves a change of direction which includes behavior. Confession is more than just words, but an agreement that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Baptism is more than a moist experience. It is death and life caught in a moment of time. Life must be lived for God and shared with others (love coupled with action) to have purpose and meaning.

May our friends and family and even our enemies find us loving them for Christ's sake. May the love of Christ transform us – and the world – for His glory. AMEN!

1 Corinthians 13 ESV

The Way of Love

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,[a] but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;[b] 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Footnotes: [a] 1 Corinthians 13:3 Some manuscripts deliver up my body [to death] that I may boast

[b] 1 Corinthians 13:5 Greek irritable and does not count up wrongdoing