

## “Living the WAY of Love” 6/17/18

### 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3

Sermon Series- “What Love Looks Like- An Exposition of 1 Corinthians 13”

**Big Idea-** God is calling us to glorify Him by living a surpassing life which loves Him and others and thus fulfills our purpose in life of reflecting Him.

**Phileo-** generally to demonstrate a brotherly love towards friends and family.

**Storge-** generally to demonstrate a love within family relationships.

**Eros-** generally a passionate physical or religious love based on worth of receiver.

**Agapao** (verb) – to be wholly committed to something or someone (Luke 11:43; John 3:19; 12:43; 2 Tim 4:10). Used also in Septuagint (Greek version of OT- Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18) and Classical Greek.

**Agape** (noun) - rarely used in Classical Greek and OT. A love which takes affectionate delight in its object and seeks to serve others sacrificially to their benefit or edification regardless of their worth or value (cf. John 15:13; 1 Corinthians 8:1b; 13:3; Zephaniah 3:17; Isaiah 62:5).

**Background-** Corinthians had extensive use of Spiritual gifts and knowledge (1:5-7), but exhibited divisions (1:10-16), pride due to arrogance (1:19-2:14; 3:18-23; 4:6, 18; 8:1), worldly immaturity (3:1-3), shameless immorality (5:1-13), selfish litigation (6:1-8), prideful indifference to struggling believers (8, 10), selfishness in Lord’s supper (11:17-34), pride in use of spiritual gifts (12:1-30).

**LESSON 1-** With love, our way of life becomes EXTRAORDINARY

- A. The surpassing excellence of love is going to be on our final TEST (“way”- Gen 18:19; Prov 14:12, Ps 1:1, 6; Matt 7:13-14; John 14:6; Rom 14:10, 2 Cor 5:10; Matt 22:37-40; John 13:35)

**1 John-** Test yourself whether you know Him (truth, obedience, and LOVE).

**Love descriptions-** Matt 5:43-48; Royal law- James 2:8; Gal 5:14; Rom 13:9-10; John 13:34; 15:12-13 “Love as I have loved you... no greater love”.

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3:14)*

*The goal of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. (1Tim 1:5)*

**LESSON 2-** Without love, our way of life becomes NOTHING

- A. The life of great oratory without love cause us to become EMPTY
- B. The life of all knowledge, mysteries and faith w/out love is WORTHLESS
- C. The life of giving it all for reward without love is PROFITLESS (Faith, hope, and love... greatest of these is love- 1 Cor 13:13)

**Going Deeper** *God desires us to be like Him, to love sacrificially and build up others so that we can fulfill our purpose in life by glorifying Him! (Gal 4:19)*

“By our enemies Jesus means those who are quite intractable and utterly unresponsive to our love, who forgive us nothing when we forgive them all, who requite our love with hatred and our service with derision.”

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Cost of Discipleship*, (p. 127).