

Call to Worship— Psalm 33:1-5

Sermon Text— 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Benediction— 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Text — 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ESV

[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, 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; [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. (ESV)

NEXT WEEK: "All Things" 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Outline: "If"

- **INTRO— A still more excellent way... chapter 13 can stand alone in its content, addressing authentic, gracious, and necessary love between persons. It's logical/rhetorical IF statements, it's definition of what love is and isn't (or does and doesn't), and the endurance of real love verses the disposable love we are so familiar with. And how love is eschatological as it endures even beyond the end. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

- **TRANSITION— John 13:34–35**

[34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (ESV)

• LOGICAL— If then statements (conditional statements)

- Syllogisms— reasoning and validity

• RHETORICAL— • expressed in terms intended to persuade or impress; (of a question) asked in order to produce an effect or to make a statement rather than to elicit information.

- Hyperbole- *exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.*

• *tongues of MEN & ANGELS*

• *ALL mysteries, knowledge, faith... to remove mountains*

• *EXTREME— give away all I have, deliver my body to be burned...*

• QUOTE— ***Without love, the most eminent gifts confer no real worth on their possessor.***

[F. Godet (2013). Godet's Commentary on Corinthians. T & T Clark. Retrieved from <https://app.wordsearchbible.lifeway.com>]

- v1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
 - Tongues (the gift)— IF my tongue speaks recognizable human language or unrecognizable angelic language
 - Hyperbole: personal/behavioral
 - ... but have not love, THEN
 - ANNOYING = noisy gong or a clanging cymbal, no value except to upset, out of place and disrupting
- v2 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.
 - Prophetic powers (the gift)
 - AGAIN, Tom Schreinner's definition of prophecy which includes "the reception of spontaneous revelations from God, and such words instruct, encourage, and warn the people of God." This is distinct from only hyper-discernment, or predicting, but is an edifying grace gift that can be anticipated when the prophet utters "Thus saith the Lord..." How does this gift work? What does it look like? When was/is it exercised? We will tackle that later in Ch 14.
 - Hyperbole: philosophical/status
 - ... but have not love, [THEN]
 - I am nothing... I am no none... I shouldn't exist
- v3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
 - Mercy, Serving, generosity (Romans 12) COMMON GOOD stuff
 - Hyperbole: observable EXTREME
 - ... but have not love [THEN]
 - I gain nothing (it profits me nothing, it is to no advantage to me, effects my ability to assist... common good)

CONCLUSION: "I am annoying/disrupting... I am nothing... I gain nothing..."