

Call to Worship— Psalm 66:1-4

Sermon Text— 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Benediction— Ephesians 2:18-22

## Text — 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 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: “Perfect” 1 Corinthians 13:8-13**

## Outline: “All Things”

- **INTRO— “A still more excellent way” continues today as Paul follows his logical and rhetorical reproof decrying counterfeit love as annoying and valueless with a list of terms to define and describe authentic love.**
- v4-6 Love ...
  - [existential] IS patient and kind  
(perseveres patiently and bravely, endures misfortune/trouble, slow in avenging, long-suffering, bearing with the offense of others AND mild/kind/tenderhearted)
    - [active] DOES NOT envy or boast  
(acts of jealousy, covetousness OR object of jealousy/covetousness)(bragging/exaggerating/embellishing)
    - [existential] IS NOT arrogant or rude  
(puffed up, inflated) OR (act unbecomingly aka misbehave)
  - [active] DOES NOT insist on its own way
    - seek its own THIS is gonna be tough... love is anti-selfish, anti-racist, anti-echochamber
      - it is the exact opposite of social media where we pursue others to like and amen what we contribute
  - [existential] IS NOT irritable or resentful IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS  
(provoked, made angry, exasperated, angry) OR (count, number, calculate, weigh or seek reckoning for wrongs/when things aren't as they are supposed to be)
  - [active] DOES NOT rejoice at wrongdoing, BUT rejoices with the truth.  
(does not celebrate injustice, unrighteousness, iniquity/lawlessness) BUT...
    - REJOICES in objective truth (reality, philosophy, doctrine, and excellence)
      - Deconstruction and other forms of relativism are forbidden. (No redefining and no “my truth”)

- v7 Love... ALL THINGS (individual= each and every, ALL + collectively= some of all types)
  - BEARS all things  
(protects like a covering, conceals rightly, endures/tolerates structurally)
  - BELIEVES all things  
(confident “fully convinced”, conviction + trust, salvific) REAL LOVE because of REAL [object of] FAITH
  - HOPES all things  
(Joyful waiting, confident expectation)
  - ENDURES all things  
(remains, tarries, abides, brave and calm, does not rased or flee)
- v8a LOVE NEVER ENDS
  - Eschatological
    - the still more excellent way of love is with the “end in view”
      - NOT JUST the love motivation of the gifts as they are exercised but the logical thread that the gifts demonstrate and on display, when done correctly (in love) become eschatological therefore the gifts are also missional... the mission accomplished of either our time here expiring or Christ’s return is all mission oriented. The still more excellent way is not just a love poem/song it’s further revealing the purpose of the gifts which allow us to discern their use and a key factor... their timing (practical as well as continuation/cessation) which we tackle next Sunday.

## **CONCLUSION: “Perfectly executed and on display by God alone”**

- Impossible without Christ
  - “Human nature” (total depravity)
  - Love a fruit of the Spirit (you must be born again)
  - We never end we need a love that never ends.