

## The Greatest of These – Sermon 1

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

1 Corinthians 12:31 And I show you a still more excellent way.

- When we choose the more excellent way of love, our relationships are greatly affected. We...

### 1. Move from Irritating to \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

- Dealing with broken people should give us a broken heart, not an indignant one.
- Real love doesn't just make a racket. It makes a difference.

### 2. Move from Confusing to \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 14:7-8 Yet *even* lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? 8 For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle?

- If we do not show love in all we do, our message is muddled and confusing.
- What kind of message to you portray?

### 3. Move from Ineffective to \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:2 If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

- Look at the three spiritual gifts mentioned in this passage: prophecy, knowledge, and faith.
- Paul wrote that he could have one or all those gifts, but if he didn't love people, really love people, it meant nothing.

### 4. Move from Fruitless to \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

- Notice the spiritual gift mentioned in this verse: giving
- Is it possible to display such generosity and sacrifice without love? Yes.
- Matthew 6:2 So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

### 5. Move from Loneliness to \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- Why would God say the greatest of those three things is love?
- Because love is foundational to every aspect of life, but many people struggle to find it.

Further Thought:

- Have you ever served others or God with a different motive than love?
- What are some steps you can take to put on love in all that you do?