

One

4. One Love

Pastor Mike McClenahan

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13 (NIV)

<sup>12:31b</sup> And yet I will show you the most excellent way. <sup>13:1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1. Love the highest is the expression of all the gifts. (12:31b-13:1-3)

*And yet I will show you the most excellent way.*

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

2. The fruit of our Christ-like character is practical love. (13:4-7)

*And yet I will show you the most excellent way.*

How do you excel in love?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is patient     | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ keeps no record of wrongs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is kind        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ does not delight in evil  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ does not envy  | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ rejoices with the truth   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ does not boast | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ always protects           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is not proud   | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ always trusts             |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ does not dishonor others | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ always hopes      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is not self-seeking      | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ always perseveres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is not easily angered    |  |

How do you grow in love?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is patient               | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ keeps no record of wrongs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is kind                  | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ does not delight in evil  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ does not envy            | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ rejoices with the truth   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ does not boast           | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ always protects           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is not proud.            | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ always trusts             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ does not dishonor others | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ always hopes              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is not self-seeking      | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ always perseveres         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ is not easily angered    |  |

3. We are grafted into Christ to bear excellent fruit. (13:8-13)

*But the greatest of these is love.*

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 (NIV)

**Establishing and growing a connection to God.** God, thank you for showing yourself to me. Jesus, I turn to you, admit I need you, and ask you to enter my heart by faith. By your Spirit, restore my heart with your forgiveness; help me to hear your voice and know your love. Graft me into you, Christ. Help me to bear the fruit of love in all I do. Gather me with others to worship and serve you; to nurture my faith and shine your light in the world. Thank you for calling me your child. Amen.

**Next Steps:** Focus your 15 minutes alone with God by journaling on the passages from this week's message and those listed below. How do you excel at love? How can you grow in love? In what ways are you loved by God? How are you personally called to love one another? What prayers of praise, gratitude, confession or supplication (for yourself) would you offer to God?

Next week, we begin a new six-week series, Summer in the Psalms. Read Psalm 145 and reflect on becoming a people of praise. In what ways does the psalmist praise God for who God is and what God has done? What list would you make?

Scriptures on Loving Others

1 John 4:7-12  
Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 5:43-45  
Colossians 3:12-14

## 1 Corinthians 12 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

<sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

## 1 Corinthians 13 (NIV)

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