

"YET I SHOW YOU

A More Excellent Way



LOVE

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13



# Love Is Powerful



# LOVE

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

## *The Circumstances @ Corinth*



- Carnality / Selfishness & Pride
- Sectarianism - 1:10-13
- Worldly wisdom - 1:18-3:23
- Toleration of immorality - 5:1-13
- Suing one another - 6:1-11
- Prideful knowledge - 8:1-10:33
- Corrupted worship - 11:1-34
- Carnal view of gifts - 12-14



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

## *The Value of LOVE*



- Seen in the vanity of all things done without it - 1 Cor 13:1-3
- Seen in the character of love - 1 Cor 13:4-7
- Seen in the durability of love - 1 Cor 13:8-13



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## **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.



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## **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.



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## **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup> But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.



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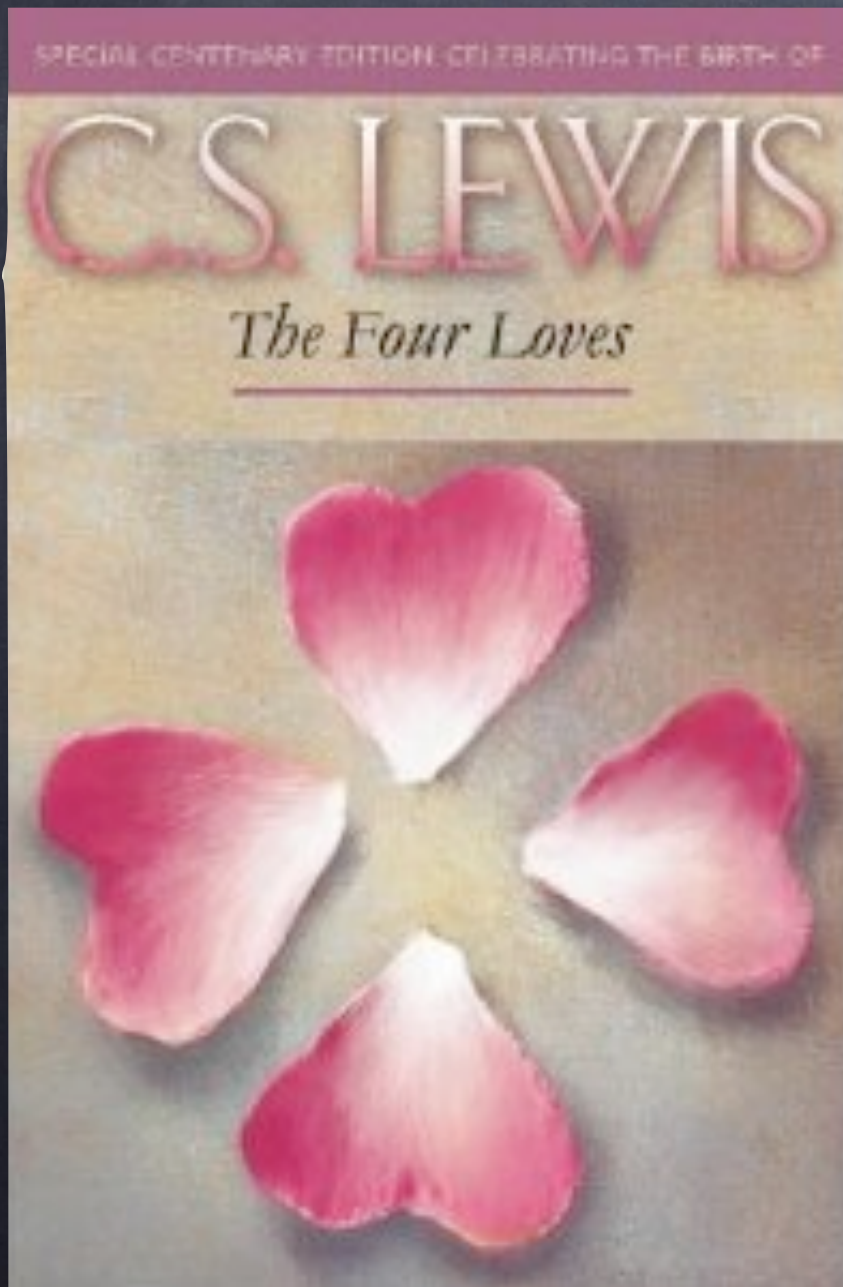
## **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. <sup>13</sup> And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

## Greek Words For Love



- ✦ **Eros** – Carnal, sensual, selfish – Not used in NT
- ✦ **Stergein** – Natural love – Not used in NT
- ✦ **Phileo** – Friendly love – More nearly represents tender affection.
- ✦ **Agapao** – love which seeks the highest good of others



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

## What is REAL LOVE



25.43 ἀγαπάω<sup>a</sup>; ἀγάπη<sup>a</sup>,  
ης f: to have love for someone  
or something, based on sincere  
appreciation and high regard  
—‘to love, to regard with  
affection, loving concern, love.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 292). New York: United Bible Societies.



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

## *What is REAL LOVE*

**Agapao**—“Love which is awakened by a sense of value in an object which causes one to prize it . . . It is a love of esteem and approbation” (Weust).





# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

## *What is REAL LOVE*

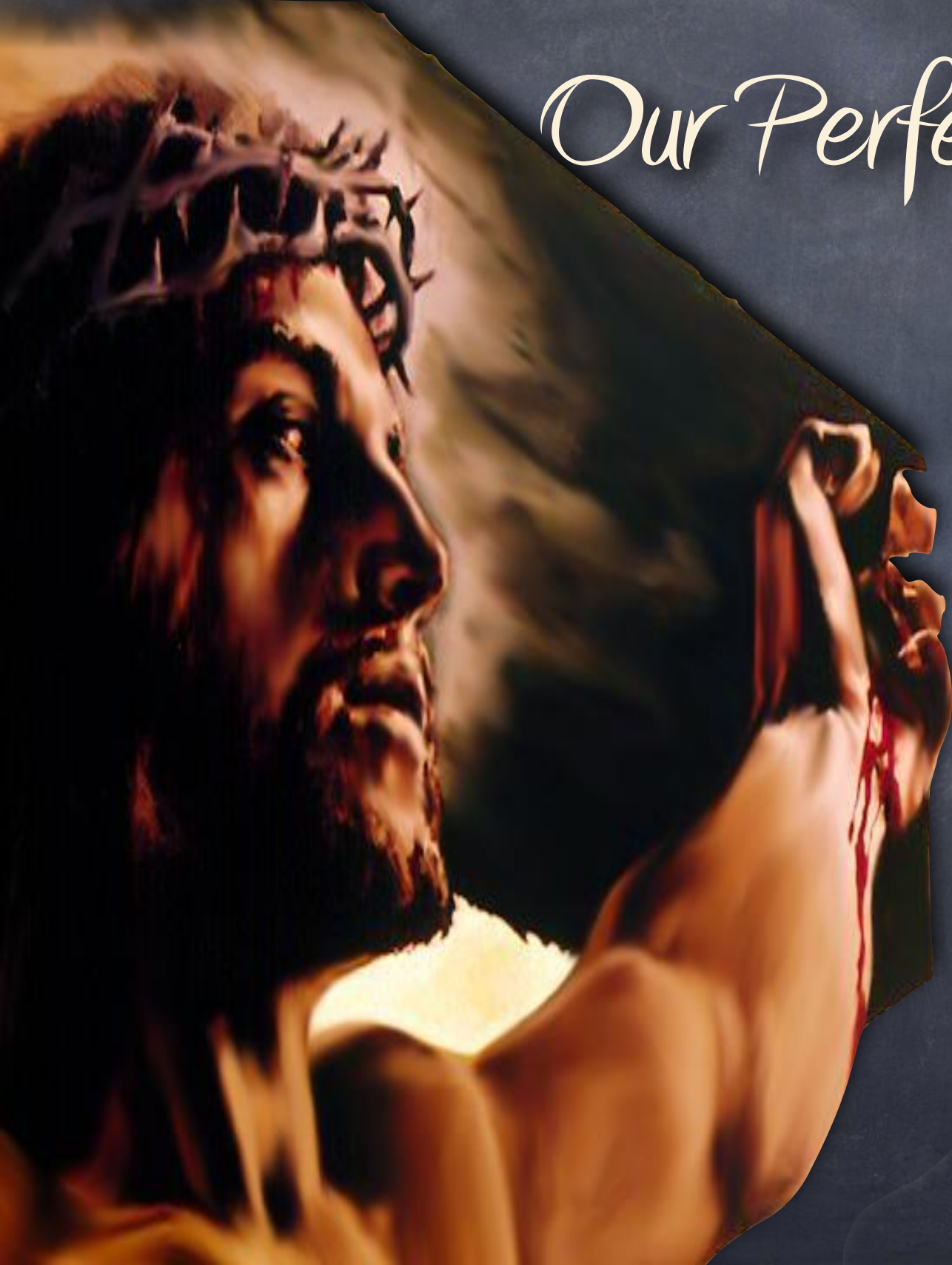
- \* Act of the will – not emotion - (Mt. 5:43-48; Mk 12:29-31; Jn. 3:16; Luke 10:27-37)
- \* Does NOT occur by chance - (We do NOT just “fall into” agape / love) - Mk 12:29-31; John 13:34; 15:12; Col 3:14; 1 Thes. 4:9-10; 1 Jn 3:23; 4:21
- \* The opposite of selfishness - Phil 2:1-10
- \* Only when I love God as I should will I be able to love others as He commands.





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## *Our Perfect Example of Love*



- Expressed to Those Who Do Not Deserve It!! – Mark 10:21; Luke 19:41; Mat. 23:37; Rom. 5:8;
- Not Exclusive - Mat. 5:44-48; Luke 6:32-35; 10:27-37; 23:34
- A Caring Love, - Mat 9:35-38; 15:32; Luke 7:11-15; John 11:33-35
- Concentrated Exercise of Will – Mark 1:40,41; Luke 19:10; Mat 26:39
- Does Not Overlook or Excuse sin - John 2:13-22; Mat. 23,24



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

*Are We Willing To Love Like Jesus Loved?*



- ✦ Jesus' Instructions To His Disciples – Jn 13:31–35; 15:9–12
- ✦ Followers of Christ Are To Have A Deep And Abiding Love For Each Other – Heb 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22
- ✦ A Test of Discipleship – 1 John 3:10,11,14–23; 4:7,8,20–5:3



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

*All Is Vanity Without LOVE - 13:1-3*



1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

- *“The tongues of men”* –The tongues of chapters 12-14, same gift of Acts 2:6-11 and 10:46, i.e., the ability to speak in a human language, which one had never learned. (Acts 2:7) - *The gift the Corinthians were exalting & emphasizing.*
- *“And (even) of angels”* - even if one could speak exhaustively in every language of both earth & heaven -
- Without love - all is defiled!



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*All Is Vanity Without LOVE - 13:1-3*



1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

'The characteristic of heathen worship, especially the worship of Dionysus and Cybele, was the clashing and the clanging of cymbals and the braying of trumpets. Even the coveted gift of tongues was no better than the uproar of heathen worship if love was absent.' (Barclay p. 131)



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

*All is Vanity Without LOVE - 13:1-3*



<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> And though I have *the gift* of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

➤ *Prophecy, understanding, knowledge & faith* were ALL important & necessary - (12:8-10; 14:1; Mat 17:20; 21:21; Col 1:9,10)

➤ There is NO profit in any gift for those using it unless accompanied by sincere love for God and man? (Mark 12:29-31; 1 Cor 8:1)



# A More Excellent Way - LOVE

*All Is Vanity Without LOVE - 13:1-3*



1 Corinthians 13:3 (NKJV)

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

- 'Those who make sacrifices to benefit others without love, must have some hidden selfish recompense that they count upon.' (Gr. Ex. N.T. p. 898)
- Charitable deeds can be self-centered (cf. Matt. 6:2),
- Even the ultimate sacrifice, (cf. Dan. 3:17–18); is ultimately futile without the proper type & object of love.



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*All Is Vanity Without LOVE - 13:1-3*



<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 13:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

If the highest possible manifestation of tongues, prophecy, knowledge, faith, benevolence and sacrifice are rendered pointless by lovelessness, then so are all other words & deeds.



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**If Each Member of this local church  
loved As Described In 1 Corinthians 13**

- ◆ **How would our families  
be effected?**
- ◆ **How would our  
community be effected?**
- ◆ **How would this  
congregation be effected?**







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# COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. <sup>14</sup> But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.