

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why does the Apostle stress the ingredient of love mixed with these gifts?
2. How is it that the lack of love renders these gifts ineffective?
3. Is it possible to have “perfect love”?
4. Why has God given us but a “glimpse” of things to come?

### SUMMARY:

All gifts listed in our lesson are wonderful gifts and should be commended. However, the Apostle points out that they become meaningless if not mixed with love, meaningless to the recipients if they can detect any hypocrisy or lack of sincerity and certainly meaningless to the one involved if these things are done in a spirit of “do I have to do it?” When love is in it, it becomes a real burden of necessity for the sake of others. All self is cast aside. One who serves the Lord, of example, out of love, is willing to sacrifice all of self, regardless of the cost in talent, time or money. One who is not willing to give all of self for the Lord can never say they truly love Him.

Love assures us a share in the Kingdom of God.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

December 13, 2026

Fourth Quarter

### IMPORTANCE OF LOVE

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**LESSON TEXT:** *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

**LESSON SETTING:** Paul’s letter to the Corinthians regarding charity.

**TIME:** Approximately 59 A.D.

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**I. LOVE - UNSURPASSED.** 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- A. Greater Than Gift of Tongues (vs. 1)
- B. Greater Than Prophecy (vs. 2)
- C. Greater Than Sacrifice (vs. 3) John 15:3; Romans 13:10

**II. LOVE - UNEQUALED.** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is:

- A. Longsuffering and Kind (vs. 4) 2 Corinthians 6:6; 2 Timothy 4:2
- B. Humble (vs. 4) Luke 14:10; 1 Peter 5:5
- C. Unselfish (vs. 5) Matthew 19:21; 2 Corinthians 8:9
- D. Forbearing (vs. 7) Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13

**III. LOVE - UNFAILING.** 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

- A. Endures (vs. 8) 1 Corinthians 3:14; 2 Corinthians 4:18
- B. Preeminent (vs. 13) Mark 12:30-31; Romans 13:10

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *AND NOW ABIDETH FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, THESE THREE; BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS CHARITY.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Galatians 4:4-7; 1 John 4:1-10  
**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Isaiah 7:10-16; 9:1-7; 11:1-9

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Life and Writings of Paul

**TOPIC:** THE INCARNATION

**INTRODUCTION:**

Long ago, at the time of the fall of man, God had promised that one would come who would have preeminence over the power of Satan. Down through the following centuries, the Patriarchs and their descendants looked for the coming of this Messiah. More stars of prophecy described His coming and His nature but the time was still not here. Eventually, the time did come, a time known only to God, when He did send the Messiah, who was His own only begotten Son. He came into this world made in the flesh, made under the law so that He could effectively become the Redeemer of the World.

And why all this? Because God's love for mankind was so great! He does not desire that anyone should perish and yet He will not force anyone to love Him and serve Him. He has willingly paid the price for our sins. This was His purpose. He did it even when everyone turned from Him, when He stood alone in Pilate's judgment hall. He could have said, "What is the use?" Instead He said, "*Father forgive them, they know not what they do.*" (Luke 23:34) Oh, how I love Jesus!

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** God's love is the greatest of Christian graces; it abides forever.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *HEREIN IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US, AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS.* 1 John 4:10

How great the love of God! The Apostle John also said, "*We love Him, because He first loved us.*" (1 John 4:19) This is the key to real love! He loved us when we were living contrary to His will, when we were rebelling against Him. He could have rightly brought swift judgment upon us and condemned us eternally. Yet He first loved us and in His mercy He touched our hearts and drew us to Him. He ordained that His Son should be the propitiation or appeasement for our sins. He took upon Himself the guilt of our sins and through the shedding of His blood, paid the price that we should have paid.

We ourselves - regard it well - Had deserved His chastening o'er us;  
Yet rejoice, your gladness tell; Jesus bore these sufferings for us;  
We are reconciled to God, by the shedding of His blood.  
By the shedding of His blood. Z. H. 243:6

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 14 – 20**

Mon. A Prophetic Announcement of Messiah. Isaiah 7:10-16  
Tue. Angelic Announcement to Mary. Luke 1:26-38  
Wed. Angelic Announcement to Joseph. Matthew 1:18-25  
Thu. Angelic Announcement to the Shepherds. Luke 2:8-20  
Fri. Presentation in the Temple. Luke 2:22-38  
Sat. Heavenly Guidance for Wise Men. Matthew 2:1-12  
Sun. Divine Protection for the Christ-Child. Matthew 2:13-23

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