



II Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

INTRODUCTION: The 13th chapter of I Corinthians is often referred to as the Love Chapter. The main subject of chapters 12 and 14, which surround this Love chapter, is all about the Spirit-filled life. So the real mark of the Spirit-filled life must be love. Chapter 12 deals with spiritual gifts, chapter 13 deals with love and chapter 14 deals with Spirit-filled power. So when you have love, you will know how to use spiritual gifts with spiritual power.

I. THE VALUE OF LOVE

A. LOVE IS GREATER THAN ORATORY (I CORINTHIANS 13:1)

B. LOVE IS GREATER THAN PROPHECY (I CORINTHIANS 13:2)

C. LOVE IS GREATER THAN KNOWLEDGE (I CORINTHIANS 13:2)

"All knowledge without love is splendid ignorance." – John Wesley

D. LOVE IS GREATER THAN FAITH (I CORINTHIANS 13:2)

"What good is it to remove mountains if you can't remove malice?" – A. Rogers

E. LOVE IS GREATER THAN GOOD WORKS (I CORINTHIANS 13:3)

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." – Amy Carmichael

F. LOVE IS GREATER THAN MARTYRDOM (I CORINTHIANS 13:3)

II. THE VIRTUE OF LOVE

A. LOVE IS PATIENT (I CORINTHIANS 13:4)

A lack of patience is literally a lack of long-suffering; a lack of love.

B. LOVE IS KIND (I CORINTHIANS 13:4)

Kindness is love in the little details. Another word for *kindness* is *courtesy*.

C. LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS (I CORINTHIANS 13:4)

D. LOVE IS HUMBLE (I CORINTHIANS 13:4)

Love and pride cannot dwell together in the same heart.

E. LOVE IS NOT RUDE (I CORINTHIANS 13:5)

F. LOVE IS SELFLESS (I CORINTHIANS 13:5)

G. LOVE IS NOT ILL-TEMPERED (I CORINTHIANS 13:5)

Nothing will ruin the spirit of unity quicker than a person who is easily provoked.

Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Colossians 3:21, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

H. LOVE IS NOT SUSPICIOUS (I CORINTHIANS 13:5)

Real love gives the object of love the benefit of the doubt.

III. THE VICTORY OF LOVE

A. LOVE IS THE GREATEST VIRTUE (I CORINTHIANS 13:8)

Love is eternal because love is not an emotion, philosophy or even an action; love is a person and His name is Jesus Christ.

"Only the Love of God can turn a Mess into a Message, a Test into a Testimony, a Trial into a Triumph, and a Victim into a Victor." – George Griffis

B. LOVE IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:37-40, "37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

C. LOVE IS THE GREATEST TESTIMONY

John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

D. LOVE IS THE GREATEST MOTIVATION

II Corinthians 5:14, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:"

John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

E. LOVE IS THE GREATEST CONFIRMATION

I John 3:14-15, "14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

Our response to John 3:16 ought to be I John 3:16.

I John 3:16, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

I John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."