

1 Corinthians 13 – The Love Chapter

Charity or love – ‘Agape’

- Two words are translated ‘love’ in the New Testament:
 - ‘Agape’: affection or benevolence, dear, love (used in 109 verses in the NT)
 - ‘Phileo’: to be a friend to (fond of (an individual or an object)), i.e. have affection for (used in 21 verses in the NT)

What is love? - 2 John 1:6 - And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

Who is love? - 1 John 4:8 - He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 Corinthians 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 13

The importance of love

- 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
- 2 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, and have not charity, I am nothing.
- 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

The attributes of love

- 4 Charity suffereth long, (*is long-tempered, rather than short-tempered*)
and is kind; (*finds constructive ways of doing good to others*)
charity envieth not; (*is not jealous, does not always have to come in first place*)
charity vaunteth not itself, (*does not brag or boast*)

is not puffed up, (*is not proud or conceited*)

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, (*is not discourteous or impolite*)

seeketh not her own, (*is not selfish, does not insist on having its own way*)

is not easily provoked, (*is not quick to anger, is not temperamental*)

thinketh no evil; (*makes allowances for the faults and falls of others, does not dwell on the negative*)

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, (*does not delight in the faults and sins of others*)

but rejoiceth in the truth; (*takes pleasure in those things that are right and true*)

7 Beareth all things, (*to cover, or pass over in silence, to keep confidential*)

believeth all things, (*has a trusting nature*)

hopeth all things, (*does not easily give up*)

endureth all things. (*puts up with wrongs without desiring revenge*)

The permanence of love

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

The superiority of love

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

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| Faith will cease – 2 Cor. 5:7 | Hope will cease – Rom. 8:24 | Love is permanent |
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Some instances of 'Agape' love:

John 15:13 – “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

Colossians 3:14 – “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

1 Peter 4:8 – “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

1 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.”

1 John 3:18 – “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

1 John 4:8 – “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

1 John 4:20 – “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

John 21:15 – “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (*agape*) thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love (*phileo*) thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (*agape*) thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love (*phileo*) thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (*phileo*) thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest (*phileo*) thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love (*phileo*) thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”

“...the greatest of these is love.”