

### Love is... (aka Part B)

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Although poets and authors have written volumes about love, none can compare with what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.



<sup>1</sup>*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not 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 have not love, I am nothing.*

<sup>3</sup>*If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not 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 is not rude, 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 perfection comes, the imperfect 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 childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup>Now we see but a poor 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.*

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1. What is Paul's evaluation of loveless religious activity? \_\_\_\_\_  
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  2. How could the value of sacrificial service in the church (or in other Christian activities) hide the lack of love for our spouse? \_\_\_\_\_  
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  3. In verses 4-7. What impresses you in the list of what love is and is not? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. How is our focus different when we are patient and kind instead of envious or boastful? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. How do rudeness, self-seeking and being easily angered show an absence of love? \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Marriage counselors warn against keeping accounts of wrongs because of the destructive power of such lists. How can we learn to avoid this pattern in marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. How does Paul's description of love differ from the common cultural view that love is a sentimental or romantic feeling? \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. "Love is giving someone the benefit of the doubt." How well does this summarize verse 7? \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. The Corinthian Christians boasted about their gifts of prophecy, tongues and knowledge, which are all temporary. How do the illustrations of the child and the mirror show what they should have been more concerned about in verses 8-13? \_\_\_\_\_  
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10. How can we evaluate whether we are more concerned about the things that remain (v. 13) than the things that pass away? \_\_\_\_\_

