

The Greatest Ingredient in Building Bridges –



1 Cor. 13:1-8a, 13

1 Cor. 13:1 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.

4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth...

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



“The Greatest *Super Friendship* the World Has Ever Seen”

Our theme this year is *Building Bridges*, and this morning we will continue looking at the topic that we will cover for a few more weeks:

The Greatest Ingredient in Building Bridges – LOVE



The main ingredient in building a relationship with Christ = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a marital relationship = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a parent/child relationship = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a loyal friendship = LOVE.

For us to be “building bridges” with anyone, our foundation must be built upon LOVE.

God’s love for us motivated Him to send His Son to build a bridge for us into eternity.

Jn. 3:16 **For God so loved the world, that he gave** his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.



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I. THE FOUNDATION OF LOVE

The premise of the video is the way the Holy Spirit moved Paul to pen the first three verses of 1 Cor. 13:

1 Cor. 13:1 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.

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A. The Emptiness When Love is Lacking – “...and have not charity... tinkling cymbal...” = “...nothing”

B. The Effort is Worth Little to the Lord, 13:1-3

1 Cor. 13:1 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 Spiritual/Intellectual Demonstration,
v. 1 = vain jangling

1 Tim. 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of **faith unfeigned:**

6 From which some **having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;**

7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; **understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.**

- The Spiritual/Pious Presentation v. 2
= great outward works = nothing.

• The Spiritual/Charitable Sacrifices,
v. 3 = greatest service (Mother Teresa)
= no spiritual worth at the Judgment Seat



Lu. 7:41-43 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, **he frankly forgave them both**. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

...

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, **Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.**



- Both owed and both were forgiven.
- How we value the worth of our forgiveness = the intensity of reciprocated love.

C. The Example Was Laid by the Lord

1 Cor. 3:9 For **we are labourers together with God**: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For **other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**



12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 **Every man's work shall be made manifest:** for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and **the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall **receive a reward.**

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall **suffer loss:** but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

- Christ loved us enough to give Himself for us.

1 Jn. 4:9 In this was **manifested the love of God toward us**, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, **not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**



- Those who know Christ should love Him enough to live for Him.

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

15 And that he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

- The quality of our works is proportionate to the quality of our love.

1 Cor. 3:13 **Every man's work shall be made manifest:** for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and **the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**



II. THE FRUIT OF LOVE

1 Cor. 13:4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

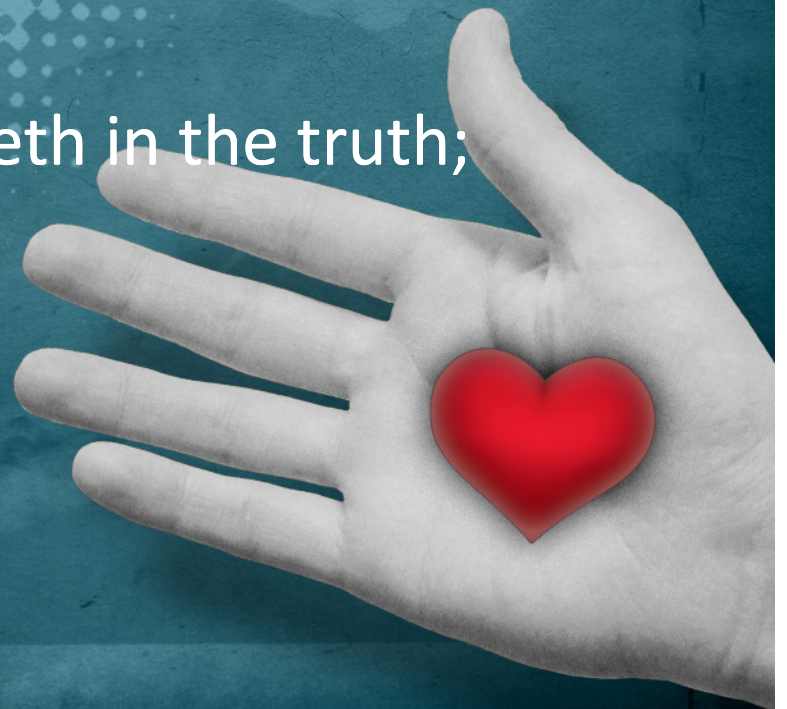
8 Charity never faileth...

A. The Ingredients



Charity...

- suffereth long, *and*
- is kind;
- envieth not;
- vaunteth not itself,
- is not puffed up,
- Doth not behave itself unseemly,
- seeketh not her own,
- is not easily provoked,
- thinketh no evil;
- Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
- Beareth all things,
- believeth all things,
- hopeth all things,
- endureth all things.
- Charity never faileth...



B. The Implementation

- God gives us His love when we are born again.

1 Jn. 3:9 Whosoever is **born of God** doth not commit sin; **for his seed remaineth in him**: and he cannot sin, **because he is born of God**.

- God's love working through us is a spiritual fruit from our spiritual relationship with Him that Jesus promised before His death, burial and resurrection.

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

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever**;

17 Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you**.



Rom. 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, **if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

1 Cor. 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that **the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

1 Jn. 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, **because he hath given us of his Spirit.**

Gal. 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.



1 Cor. 13:4-8a Charity...

- suffereth long, *and*
- is kind;
- envieth not;
- vaunteth not itself,
- is not puffed up,
- Doth not behave itself unseemly,
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Gal 5:22

"But the fruit of the Spirit is..."

- love,
- joy,
- peace,
- longsuffering,
- gentleness,
- goodness,
- faith,
- Meekness,
- temperance:

Conclusion

Lu. 6:46 And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which **built** an house, and **digged deep**, and **laid the foundation on a rock**: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and **could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.**

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately **it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.**



- To build a relationship that will last, it must have a solid foundation.
- The foundation of our relationship with God was built upon love.
- For us to build bridges of long-lasting relationships, we must lay the foundation of love, the type of love which is from God – WHO IS LOVE.
- The actions, without love, mean absolutely NOTHING!
- Actions of God-like love must find its source in spiritual strength that is a fruit, naturally and supernaturally via the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.



“Love is an unconditional commitment to selflessly serve, truthfully communicate, fearlessly protect, gracefully forgive, compassionately heal, and enduringly remain in relationship with and for the sake of another.” Dave Willis, *The Seven Laws of Love*.

Jn. 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 **If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.**



The implementation of love is how we conduct ourselves, outwardly, based upon the inward character of our spiritual motivation.

1 Jn. 4:19 **We love him**, because he first loved us.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

