



LOVE SO AMAZING

2022 THEME

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

1 Cor. 13:8 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.

This morning, we continue looking at *Love So Amazing* in what is commonly called the “Love Chapter,” I Cor. 13. We began with examining the usage of “charity” instead of “love” as the translation of the Greek work *agape*.

❖ The basic observation regarding the two words is that the translation of *agape* to *love* is focused upon the attribute of God while translating *agape* to *charity* focuses upon a believers interaction with others.

2 Thess. 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and **the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;**

1 Pet. 4:8 And above all things **have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**

❖ As we continue the “Love So Amazing” chapter, **remember that the focus of the word *charity* emphasizes God-like love of a believer toward others.**

❖ The chapter begins by expressing great things that are nullified without charity.

I. THE EXCLUSION OF CHARITY, 13:1-3

❖ In essence, the first three verses are expressing **THE VALUE OF LOVE.**

II. THE EXPLANATION OF CHARITY, 13:4-7

❖ The next few verses express **THE VIRTUE OF LOVE.**

❖ We now move to the conclusion of the “love chapter,” to see **THE VICTORY OF LOVE.**

This morning we begin looking at the conclusion of this great chapter about “love.” The beginning of verse 8 is the pinnacle of this message → CHARITY NEVER FAILETH. As long as eternity exists, God’s love never ceases to exist! Other aspects of ministry will cease, but not the love of God. Let’s begin looking at the exceptionality of charity.

III. THE EXCEPTIONALITY OF CHARITY

A. That Which is Prevailing, 13:8a “Charity never faileth...”

- ❖ Charity never stops expressing love for another.
- ❖ Charity outlasts everything.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus loved us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8) and continues to love us forever!
- ❖ The Lord's love is unconditional, and unmerited – He loves sinners in spite of themselves.
- ❖ The Greek word translated “fail” is ekpiptó – never falling under any weight or pressure.

Original Word: ἐκπίπτω

Transliteration: ekpiptó;

Definition: to fall; **Usage:** I fall down, fall under (as under condemnation), fall prostrate.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4098.htm>

- ❖ Love never abandons, never fails to meet the challenges life, regardless of circumstances.
- ❖ Such love is a strong commitment, necessary for a successful relationship, is bound securely by a determination to love at all times.

- ❖ Perpetual love supersedes the shallow, emotional “goose bump” giddiness of emotional instability shared when everything is going well.
- ❖ Problems within a family, whether physical, financial, emotional, or spiritual, will not break a relationship when the offending person is genuinely loved.
- ❖ Charity that never fails is one that always maintains an attitude of forgiveness.

B. That Which is Passing, 13:8b – 10 “...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.”

1. Paul’s Definite Expectation, 13:8b-d “...but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.”

❖ In contrast to charity, three spiritual gifts will cease to be operative – prophecies, tongues, and knowledge.

Original Word: προφητεία

Transliteration: prophēteia;

Definition: prophecy

Usage: prophecy, prophesying; the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth.

Prophēteía – **properly, what is clarified *beforehand*; *prophecy* which involves divinely-empowered *forthtelling* (asserting the mind of God) or *foretelling* (prediction).** <https://biblehub.com/greek/4394.htm>

❖ With the completion of the Bible, predictions of the future are no longer needed, they will reduce to inactivity.

Original Word: καταργέω

Transliteration: katargeó

Definition: **to render inoperative, abolish**

Usage: (a) I make idle (inactive), make of no effect, annul, abolish, bring to naught, (b) I discharge, sever, separate from.

Katargéō – **being of no effect (totally without force, completely brought down); done away with, cause to cease and therefore abolish; make invalid, abrogate (bring to nought); "to make idle or inactive"**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2673.htm>

❖ The gift of “tongues” – or languages – will not be needed, or operative.

Original Word: γλῶσσα

Transliteration: glóssa;

Definition: the tongue, a language

Usage: the tongue, a language, a nation (usually distinguished by their speech).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1100.htm>

❖ The gift of languages will cease.

Original Word: παύω

Transliteration: pauó

Definition: to make to cease, hinder

Usage: (a) act: I cause to cease, restrain, hinder, (b) mid: I cease, stop, leave off

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3973.htm>

❖ The “knowledge” that has been a special illumination by the Holy Spirit will no longer be needed.

Original Word: γνῶσις

Transliteration: gnósis **Phonetic Spelling:** (gno'-sis)

Definition: a knowing, knowledge; **Usage:** knowledge, doctrine, wisdom.

gnósis – **functional ("working") knowledge gleaned from first-hand (personal) experience, connecting theory to application;** <https://biblehub.com/greek/1108.htm>

- ❖ The future decline of spiritual gifts is indicated by the same term used with “prophecies” – a replacement to such gifts will be “perfect” (v. 10).

Original Word: καταργέω

Transliteration: katargeó;

Definition: to render inoperative, abolish

Usage: (a) I make idle (inactive), make of no effect, annul, abolish, bring to naught, (b) I discharge, sever, separate from.

katargéō – properly, *idle down, rendering something inert* ("completely inoperative"); i.e. being of *no effect (totally without force, completely brought down)*; done away with, cause to *cease* and therefore abolish; make invalid, abrogate (bring to nought); "to make idle or inactive"

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2673.htm>

❖ The impetus is the contrast between charity and “gifts.” Charity will always be preeminent and operative – the gifts will vanish away.

2. Paul’s Definitive Explanation, 13:9-10

a. A Word of Illumination, 13:9-10

(1) The Problem of Partial Knowledge, 13:9

13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

Original Word: μέρος

Transliteration: meros;

Definition: a part, share, portion; **Usage:** a part, portion, share. <https://biblehub.com/greek/3313.htm>

- ❖ In the beginning of the church age, the first church only had bits and pieces of Scriptural truth. They only knew and preached “in part.”
- ❖ The illustration was to “go with what you have” – like Moses with the rod.

Ex. 4:2 And the LORD said unto him, What *is* that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

- ❖ The Lord will allow temporary expedience while something permanent is developing.
- ❖ Believers need to wait upon the Lord, and keep walking by faith – God IS in control.
- ❖ The revelation of truth was the replacement for the temporary.

(2) The Promise of Perfect Knowledge, 13:10

13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

- ❖ The promise of the permanent was at hand.

Original Word: τέλειος

Transliteration: teleios;

Definition: **having reached its end, complete, perfect**

Usage: perfect, (a) complete in all its parts, (b) full grown, of full age, (c) specially of the completeness of Christian character.

téleios (an adjective, derived from *télos*, "consummated goal") – ***mature (consummated) from going through the necessary stages to reach the end-goal, i.e. developed into a consummating completion by fulfilling the necessary process (spiritual journey).***

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5046.htm>

- ❖ Such charity, a living example of God's love, will transition to permanency with the provision of the Word of God, and implementation in the life of a believer.

Conclusion

1 Cor. 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **and have not CHRIST**, 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 CHRIST, 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 CHRIST, it profiteth me nothing.**

4 **CHRIST** suffereth long, *and* is kind; **CHRIST** envieth not; **CHRIST** 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 **CHRIST** 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.

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