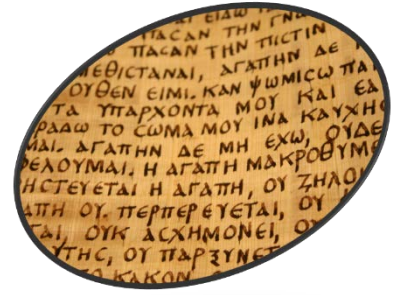


1 Corinthians – “Unity in Christ”

Lesson #14



I. Without love...

a. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

b. Describe love.

c. What sounds are the most annoying to you? (vs 1)

d. The very best of the gift of tongues is no more than a painful noise without love. Do you agree that works without love amount to nothing? (vss 1-2)

i. See Galatians 5:6; Isaiah 64:6

e. Without love we can do many things, but what does Jesus say in Matthew 7:22-23?

f. Can love be measured by actions alone? (vs 3)

g. We often emphasize faith in Jesus as the most important thing. Is faith without love possible?

II. What love does...and does not...

a. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

b. Read these verses again, replacing the word, “love” with your name. How does that make you feel?

c. Many couples use these verses in their weddings, but how does it apply to all our relationships as followers of Christ?

d. What does it mean that love bears, believes, and hopes all things? (vs 7)

i. Proverbs 10:12; 1 Peter 4:8; also see 8th Commandment in Luther’s Small Catechism

e. Each of these “descriptions” of love are not adjectives in Greek, but verbs. How does this change the reading for you?

III. Love endures

a. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

b. In verse 8, is Paul speaking about the future of the Church on earth or about the Last Day when Jesus returns?

c. “Love never ends” is literally translated, “love never falls,” (vs 8). Everything else falls down, but love stands firm. How does God’s love comfort you?

d. Paul says we only have partial understanding and are like children (vss 9-12). Does this mean that God’s revealed Word to us is false, imperfect or partial?

i. See John 8:31-32

e. Many bible translations describe the mirror’s reflection as dim, indistinct or dark. How might “indirect” change the meaning of this verse?

IV. Next time...

a. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-40