# Value of Love in Corinthian Context

**Buddy Payne** · 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 · Series: **The Greatest of These Is Love**

## INTRODUCTION

- Our aim throughout this series, as should always be the case, is to give God the glory, to focus our attention upon what He says, not upon the speaker.
- God gave us a book, and he expects us to know his book.
- And now abide faith, hope, love, these three. But the greatest of these is love.

## 1 Let All Be Done in Love

**1 Corinthians 16:14**

- At the very end of this book of First Corinthians, in the very last chapter, he concludes this letter by saying to those disciples, let all be done in love.
- I don't know of a book in the New Testament that is more full of difficulties, trials, problems, and gross things that brethren were doing.
- In the midst of that mess, God has placed this gem.
- This gem stand out in its beauty and its majesty even more than it would in another setting.

## 2 A Love That Goes Beyond Emotion

**John 3:16**

- I haven't located anywhere in Scripture a formal definition of this love God speaks of in this book. What I find instead is God describing what love does.
- The word for love used in 1 Corinthians 16 and here in this beloved chapter is a word that goes beyond emotion. It is supremely an act of the will.
- It is self-sacrifice in action.
- It is the kind of love that God could have for us even while we were his enemies.
- If God could say to this church, let everything be done in love and have some hope that it might happen, then there's hope for me.

## 3 How Important Is This Subject?

**Romans 13:8–10**

- It's only the greatest commandment God ever gave to love God with all that's in us and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- Owe no one anything except to love one another. For he who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- It's only the summation of everything God commands us to do.
- When God chose to describe himself in one word, what did he say? We sang it this morning. God is love.

## 4 We Must Keep It in Context

**1 Corinthians 12:1–31; 1 Corinthians 13:8**

- We can always gain the greatest good from what God tells us by keeping passages in the context God has selected for them.
- The immediate context of 1 Corinthians 13 is chapters 12, 13, and 14.
- 1 Corinthians 12 introduces the subject of the spiritual gifts that were given to the early church.
- Miraculous knowledge has been done away, but love not. Love never fails.

## 5 Without Love, They Add Up to Zero

**1 Corinthians 12:31; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3**

- Earnestly desire the best gifts, and I yet show you a more excellent way.
- God chooses in these three verses in the first section of this chapter to use exaggeration.
- If you don't have the proper motivation, they add up to zero. Exactly nothing.
- Knowledge without love is nothing. Miraculous faith without love adds up to zero. Benevolence without love profits nothing.
- A loveless person produces nothing of value. A loveless person is himself of no value.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **You want to bring people to Christ? Let them see in us the love of Jesus Christ flowing from us so fully and beautifully that folks will say, these truly must be disciples of Jesus Christ.**

MY NOTES