

The Greatest is Charity

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 *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. 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. 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. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity 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.*

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

- I believe in hard preaching. I believe in high standards. But at the end of the day, if what we do, and if our lives themselves, are not motivated by charity (love)- a love for God, a love for the brethren, and a love for the lost- our teaching, our preaching, our giving, our sacrifice, our talents, and our life, is just noise.
- This evening, let's evaluate our love in three different areas.

1. How is our love for the _____?

Matthew 22:36-38 *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.*



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- We can serve, we can preach hard, we can go soul winning. We can stand against the ills of society. But if we're missing our love for the Lord, we're like a sounding brass, and a tinkling symbol.

Revelation 2:1-5 *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

- Does the preaching move me? Do the songs move me? Do we ever shed a tear for the things of the Lord?

2. How is our love for the _____?

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

- Jesus said “the world will know you're my children by the love you have _____.”

Colossians 3:12-14 *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

- Marks of a strong family
 - _____
 - _____ Together
 - _____
 - Work well together in times of _____
 - Tough times will come.

3. How is our love for the _____?

- The reason we have salvation is because God “_____” the world.

John 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.*

Romans 5:6-8 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

1 John 4:10 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Titus 3:3-4 *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared.*

2 Corinthians 5:19 *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*