**Sermon Title: Nothing Compares to Godly Love**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to recognize and practice the preeminence of love.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 hyperboles that demonstrate that gifts without love is useless.**

**Introduction:** There is no doubt that what’s needed in this world is love. If people loved the way that God loves, there would be no more war, crime, injustice, poverty, racism, hatred, homelessness, or immorality. God’s love lived out by humanity is the one character trait that could transform society and the world.

Each believer is to covet/have a strong desire for the best gift of all. There is a biblically ordained covetousness. The believer is to covet the “best of gifts,” so they can most effectively serve his Lord and Master. This gift is available to every believer equally.

Let’s do a deeper dive into this subject.

**1 John 4:7-13** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. **13** By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

“Deeper Study #1

**Love**: throughout this passage the word used for love or charity is the great word *agape*. The meaning of *agape* love is more clearly seen by contrasting it with the various kinds of love. There are essentially four kinds of love. Whereas the English language has only the word *love* to describe all the affectionate experiences of men, the Greek language had a different word to describe each kind of love.

1. There is *passionate love* or *erros love*. This is the physical love between sexes; the patriotic love of a person for his nation; the ambition of a person for power, wealth, or fame. Briefly stated, *erros love* is the base love of a man that arises from his own inner passion. Sometimes *erros love* is focused upon good and other times it is focused upon bad. It should be noted that *erros love* is never used in the New Testament.

2. The is *affectionate love* or *storge love*. This is the kind of love that exists between parent and child and between loyal citizens and a trustworthy ruler. *Storge love* is also not used in the New Testament.

3. There is an *enduring love*, the love that cherishes. This is *phileo love*, the love of a husband and wife for each other, of a brother for a brother, of a friend for the dearest of friends. It is the love that cherishes, that holds someone or something ever so dear to one’s heart.

4. There is *selfless* and *sacrificial love* or *agape love*. Agape love is the love of the mind, of the reason, of the will. It is the love that goes so far …

* that it loves a person even if he does not deserve to be loved.
* that it actually loves the person who is utterly unworthy of being loved.

Note four significant points about agape love.

a. Selfless or agape love is the love of God, the very love possessed by God Himself. It is the love demonstrated in the cross of Christ.

* It is the love of God for the *ungodly.*

**Romans 5:6** For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

* It is the love of God for *unworthy sinners.*

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

* It is the love of God for *undeserving enemies.*

**Romans 5:10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

b. Selfless or agape love is a gift of God. It can be experienced only if a person knows God *personally* – only if a person has received the love of God into his heart and life. Agape love has to be shed abroad (poured out, flooded, spread about) by the Spirit of God within the heart of a person.

**Romans 5:5** Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

c. Selfless or gape love is the greatest thing in all of life according to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mark 12:29-31** Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments *is*:`Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. **30** `And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This *is* the first commandment. **31** "And the second, like *it, is* this:`You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

d. Selfless or agape love is the greatest possession and gift in human life according to the Scripture. (**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**)

**1 Corinthians 13:13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.”

[***The Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible, I & II Corinthians,* p. 162-163**]

**I. Supreme giftedness in the ability to speak all known human languages, would be useless to others without love. V.1**

**II. Supreme giftedness in the ability to prophesy would be useless to others without love. V.2**

**III. Supreme giftedness in the ability to be charitable would be useless to others without love. V.3**

**I. Supreme giftedness in the ability to speak all known human languages, would be useless to others without love. V.1**

**John 15:9-17** "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **10** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. **11** "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. **12** "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. **14** "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **15** "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16** "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. **17** "These things I command you, that you love one another.

**II. Supreme giftedness in the ability to prophesy would be useless to others without love. V.2**

A. Useless to know all **mysteries** without love. V.2a

B. Useless to have all **knowledge** without love. V.2b

**Romans 13:8-10** Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.

C. Useless to have all **faith** without love. V.2c

**Romans 5:5-8** Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **6** For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**III. Supreme giftedness in the ability to be charitable would be useless to others without love. V.3**

A. Useless if I gave up all my **goods**. V.3a (**Romans 5**)

**Matthew 6:1-4** "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. **2** "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. **3** "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

B. Useless if I gave up my **life**. v.3b

**John 13:34-34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

**1 John 3:13-18** Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death. **15** Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **16** By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? **18** My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

**Conclusion:**

The fruit of the Spirit, like all of spiritual living, comes only from walking in the Spirit.

**Galatians 5:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

**Galatians 5:25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Having a spiritual gift does not make one spiritual. Even having the fruit of the Spirit does not make one spiritual but is simply evidence that one is spiritual. Only walking in the Spirit makes the believer spiritual. Walking by the Spirit is Paul’s way of defining day-to-day obedience to the Word of God and submission to the Lord.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Dr. Karl Menninger, the famous psychiatrist and founder of the Menninger Clinic, has written that “Love is the medicine for our sick old world. If people can learn to give and receive love, they will usually recover from their physical or mental illness.”

[**John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary 1 Corinthians*, p.328-329**]