

First Corinthians Chapter 13

I have heard this chapter of First Corinthians preached as a description of the love that Jesus Christ has for the Church and all humanity.

The preacher changed the wording slightly to prove his point.

“Christ suffered long and is kind, Christ envieth not, Christ vaunteth not Himself, is not puffed up, does not behave Himself unseemly, seeketh not His own ...”

... and so to the end of chapter.

No Christian would deny that Jesus Christ, being very God [**John 1:1**], has in Himself all moral virtues in full perfection.

God is love [**1 John 4:8,16**] so it follows that anything said about love can be said about Jesus Christ.

But to make Paul's words describe only Jesus Christ is to read into them a meaning Paul never intended, which is to introduce error into the interpretation of scripture.

Such an action has practical and serious consequences in that it ignores the important warning of this chapter by relieving us of all obligation to seek and obtain the love of God in our own life.

What Paul is telling us is that love is absolutely indispensable to the Christian life.

The Greek word used throughout these verses and translated love or charity is “*agapé*”, a spontaneous love, irrespective of the rights or response of the person receiving that love, a sacrificial love where the selfish desires are sacrificed in order to show this love to others.

Paul's analysis of *agapé* love is not intended to tell us what kind of being Jesus Christ is but what kind of person every true Christian must become.

Such perfect sacrificial love is impossible for any human being to generate of themselves, how then do we have such a love in our lives?

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

This “*agapé*” love is declared as the “*fruit*” of the Holy Spirit working within us.

If our daily loves reveal that this “*fruit*” is not there we dare not assume that it is “*just because the Bible says so.*”

In fact the absence of this type of love in our lives is proof of the absence of the Holy Spirit or at least that He is inoperative within us.

This is the only honest conclusion.

Romans 8:8-11 [NIV] *“Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who*

raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

This is just how important that the Holy Spirit is active within our lives and that they express this Godlike “*agapé*” love.

[Please take time to download and study the many articles under the main heading “*Holy Spirit*”. You will be eternally grateful that you did.]