

Love in the End Times (2)

Love Never Fails

'...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love'

(Eph.4:15-16)

What the Corinthian church was, and should not have been (1 Cor.13:1-3)

'Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging 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, but have not love, I am nothing'

(1 Cor.13:1-2)

- ✓ **The church at Corinth came behind in no gift, but a long way behind in love**
- ✓ **If we possess gifts, e.g. tongues, prophecy and faith, but do not have love we are nothing**
- ✓ **Faith, knowledge and other gifts can sometimes be used in a cruel way**
- ✓ **Sometimes we regard people with exceptional gifts as special. Not only are they not special but without love they are nothing**

'And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing'

(1 Cor.13:3)

- ✓ **Even if we sacrifice our two greatest possessions – property and life – yet have not love there is no profit to us**
- ✓ **'Love' here is agape. A self-denying, sacrificial love which seeks the highest good of another person**
- ✓ **God is agape. This gives 'love' a heavenly meaning. We can only discover it and understand it in God, as revealed by Jesus**

“Love one another” (John 13:34)
“Love one another” (John 13:35)
“Love one another” (John 15:12)
“Love one another” (John 15:17)
“Love one another” (Rom 12:10)
“Love one another” (1 Thess 3:12)
“Love one another” (1 Peter 1:22)
“Love one another” (1 John 3:11)
“Love one another” (1 John 3:23)
“Love one another” (1 John 4:7)
“Love one another” (1 John 4:11)
“Love one another” (1 John 4:12)
“Love one another” (2 John 5)

What the Corinthian church was not and should have been (1 Cor.13:4-7)

'Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things'

(1 Cor.13:4-7)

Some aspects are restraint, others constraint

E.g. the longsuffering and the goodness of God

- ✓ **Patient – *makrothumein*. In NT it always describes patience with people...and kind**
- ✓ **Does not envy. To resent what others**
- ✓ **Does not parade itself, is not puffed up**
- ✓ **Does not behave rudely**
- ✓ **Does not seek its own. Self-love**
- ✓ **Is not provoked. Not over-sensitive; irritable**
- ✓ **Thinks no evil. To store up, an accountant term**
- ✓ **Does not rejoice in iniquity. Is never glad when others go wrong. Doesn't profit from other people's faults. Doesn't exploit their failings**
- ✓ **But rejoices in the truth**

How love faces difficult people:

- ✓ **Bears all things. Puts up with the personal offences of others rather than publicly exposing them, or retaliating**
- ✓ **Believes all things. Is not suspicious or judgmental. Believes the best**
- ✓ **Hopes all things. When trust has been betrayed and there is no visible reason to believe and every reason not to. What is the foundation of hope? God**
- ✓ **Endures all things. Justices and injustices. Holds firm to the end when others have given up**

Trying to analyze love is like removing the petals from a flower one by one

This is not a morality list but a perfect picture of Jesus

How can we live like this?

'...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us'

(Rom.5:5)

'Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away'

(1 Cor.13:8)

- ✓ **Love never fails, lit. to fall or collapse**
- ✓ **It prevails throughout time and eternity because it is of divine origin**
- ✓ **Jesus loved His disciples unto the end**
- ✓ **Nothing can separate us from this love**
- ✓ **We may not always achieve our desired goals, but if we love we succeed in God's purpose**

People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them

ANYWAY

Mother Teresa

thebarnprincess.com

'For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things'

(1 Cor.13:9-11)

- **Each stage of development prepares for the next. Childhood for youth, youth for adulthood**
- **A child is a picture of our apprehension of things now. And a mature person depicts our apprehension in heaven**
- **Eternity will be an ever-increasing expansion of what we have now**

*'For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but
then face to face. Now I know in part, but then
I shall know just as I also am known'*

(1 Cor.13:12)

***'And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love'***

(1 Cor.13:13)

- ✓ **As Paul said there are some things that will pass away, so there are 3 things that will remain**
- ✓ **Eternity does not mean finality**
- ✓ **Every fresh partaking of God makes even greater horizons possible**
- ✓ **Love is the greatest thing**

Faith, hope and love related and often mentioned together

'Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 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'
(Rom.5:1-5)

'...since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven'
(Col.1:4-5)

'But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation'
(1 Thes.5:8)

Faith, hope and love are inseparable and each have an outworking:

'...remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father'
(1 Thes.1:3)

*Three things will last
forever – faith, hope, and
love – and the greatest
of these is love.*

-1 Corinthians 13:13



FAITH REMEDY