

# Love Always Wins

## Reading:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 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.

3 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.

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 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.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 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.

12 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.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

## I. Highest Goal

A. Love is the key for us as a church. It is our highest goal and the greatest motivation we can have in this life. If you walk we will win in life!

1. Our Motto is that we are “Spirit Sensitive – People Loving”
2. Part of our vision statement is to be, A Loving church; sharing the love, acceptance and forgiveness of Jesus.
  - a. I could preach this 52 weeks a year and this topic would not lose its power.

B. Highest attribute someone can give you is that you are a loving person

1. My goal is to show forth the love of God. When I die, if I die before Jesus returns, I want people to say that I loved them.
2. “I pray everything I do, say and desire be with love and pure motives”
  - 1Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done with love.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;
  - Colossians 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
3. I have not arrived, but I feel myself progressing in the love of God. We can grow

more in the love of God. God is perfecting the love walk in us.

### C. Highest attribute in a pastor and church

Love is a good characteristic for a pastor to have. I have met a few that weren't very loving: one beat the sheep, another was unapproachable, another was rude. They had no business being pastors.

Love is a good characteristic for a church to have. I have been to a few churches where the prevailing attitude was anything but love. It resembled a bunch of Republicans and Democrats counting dimpled chads!

1. John 13:34,35 "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."

Not by doctrine, good teaching, car you drive, bumper sticker,

a. People come into a church broken, rejected, hurt. The key for their healing will be the love of God through us. It is a compliment to hear someone say, "We felt such love when we came in this place today."

b. 1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

### **C. Is faith important? Yes, without it you wouldn't get saved**

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

*Faith and love don't compete they complete one another!*

James 2:26 ... faith without works is dead also.

Brother Hagin & Copeland are loving people. Best messages they have preached have been on love. Those men have been persecuted & spoken against mercilessly, but I have never seen them respond in hate or a venomous response. Could we say the same?

## **II. I Corinthians 14:1**

*Love and the gifts don't compete with each other they work together and compliment one another*

### **Pursue defined:**

1. Vine's: SUNAKOLOUTHEô: To follow along with, to accompany a leader
2. Strong's: Ensue, follow after, press forward
3. Webster: To find or employ measures to obtain or accomplish; seek (a goal)

### **Different Translations:**

(NKJ) Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts,

(WEY) Be eager in your pursuit of this Love, and be earnestly ambitious for spiritual gifts

(RSV) Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts,

(NIV) Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts,

(BBE) Go after love; still desiring to have the things which the Spirit gives,

(ICB) Love, then, is what you should try for. And you should truly want to have the spiritual gifts.

(YLT) Pursue the love, and seek earnestly the spiritual things,

(KJS) Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts,

(AMP) Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire (this) love (make it your aim, your great quest); and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts)

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Definition/Application</b>
<b>Love suffers long</b>	<b>having patience with imperfect people</b>
<b>Love is kind</b>	<b>active in doing good</b>
<b>Love does not envy</b>	<b>non possessive and non competitive, it wants other people to</b>