

1/21/2024 - Speaker: Al Schaap

Message – 1 Corinthians 13 (p. 1137) – “Love” (Part 1)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

The Greek language (in which the NT was written) has 5 words for love:

- “epithumia” – strong desire
- “eros” – normal sexual attraction
- “storge” – loyalty, emotional refuge, feelings of belonging
- “phileo” – friendship love
- “agape” – selfless love of God toward us which ignites a similarly selfless love in us toward each other
 - ...comes from God (can't be humanly manufactured)
 - ...Is learned & developed by acts of our will as part of our commitments to God and the person we are loving
 - ...Can maintain/rekindle/realign other aspects of love
 - ...Constantly depends on God for supply and power
 - ...Sees the mistakes/imperfections in the other person in terms of possibilities for discovery and growth.

...resounding gong/clanging cymbal...nothing...gain nothing.

· Without “agape/love,” my songs/speech are just

_____!

· Without “agape/love,” knowledge/faith leave me an

_____!

· Without “agape/love,” all my sacrificing leaves

_____!

Speaking
+ Spiritual Gifts
+ Faith
+ Serving
+ Suffering for Jesus
- Love
= 0.000

Loving is “the greatest” thing! From the start, God created us to be “in the image of God” – like Him – and _____
_____! Cf. 1 John 4:8, 16b-21

The colors of God's love:

- Love is patient
- Love is kind
- It does not envy
- It does not boast
- It is not proud
- It does not dishonor others
- It is not self-seeking
- It is not easily angered
- It keeps no record of wrongs
- Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

- Love always protects...It always trusts
- Love always hopes...It always perseveres
- Love never fails

Let God shine His love more brightly through your life this year.

- Start with 2 colors: one already shining brightly (emphasize your strengths) and one that is one of your dimmest (trusting God to transform you.)
- Also rotate through these 14 – one a day – every two weeks (or however God guides you) so we will grow in truly loving with God's love!
- Join me in reading 1 Cor. 13 once/month...and living it each day...in 2024!

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” (Jesus, in John 13:34-35)

Key: empty sounds, empty self, no significance; love makes us most like God