

Feb 27, 2011



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## Studies in 1 Corinthians

Date	Lesson	Text
12/05	Introduction	
12/12	Why Can't We Get Along	1:1-17
12/19	Remember the Cross	1:18-2:2
12/26	NO CLASS - CHRISTMAS	
01/02	Spiritually Mature	2:14-3:16
01/09	Servant Leadership	4:1-21
01/16	Immoral World	5:1-13 and 6:9-20
01/23	Marriage & Singleness	7:1-35
01/30	Life's Grey Area	8:1-13 and 9:19-26 and 10:14-33
02/06	Worship	11:2-16
02/13	Lord's Supper	11:17-34
02/20	Are You Gifted	12:4-31
<b>02/27</b>	<b>Greatest Way to Live</b>	<b>13:1-13</b>
03/06	Place to Proclaim	14:1-29
03/13	Hope	15:3-57
03/20	Summary and Review	

## Food for Thought

### Love For One Another

Lord, let me be a shining light  
in all I say and do, That Your great  
love displayed in me may lead  
someone to You. Sometimes the  
best witness is **love**.

*By this all will know that  
you are My disciples, if  
you have love for one another*

(John 13:35 NKJV)

From "Our Daily Bread", Aug 16, 2010

## The Greatest Way To Live

### 1 Cor 13:1-13

### What This Lesson Is About

Years ago, Henry Drummond wrote an essay on love and entitled it, "The Greatest Thing in the World." The New Testament affirms the accuracy of that assessment. When Jesus was asked to identify the greatest commandment, he responded, "You shall love ..." (Matt. 22:35-40). In the Sermon on the Mount, he said, "Love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44). As he met with his disciples just before his arrest and crucifixion, he said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (John 13:34). And in the last verse of 1 Corinthians 13, the Bible passage for this lesson, Paul wrote, "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." In this passage, Paul also gives us a detailed definition of love.

### Explore The Bible Passage

Read 1 Corinthians 13 in its entirety. (This can be done in two minutes or less.) Notice the essentiality of love (verses 1-3), the nature of love (verses 4-7) and the superiority of love (verses 8-13).

### Take A Closer Look

The Greek word translated "love" in this passage ("charity" in the KJV) is agape, a special word for Christian love, which is distinctly different from other kinds of love. (For example, romantic love, eros, is based largely on emotion; agape, on the other hand, is a matter of the will.) What Paul is saying in verses 1-3 is not that love should be substituted for other spiritual gifts (such as "tongues," prophecy and faith), but, rather, that all other spiritual gifts must be empowered by love. Look carefully at the down-to-earth list of the characteristics of love in verses 4-7. How different this is from the flowery, sentimental abstractions that are often used to describe love ("two hearts beating together," "a treasure sweet," "a many splendored thing"). Here is a hard-nosed formula for answering the question, "Am I really a loving person?"

Notice that love "turns all the mirrors on the walls of one's life into windows." It shifts the focal point away from oneself, and toward others. Look again at the list in verses 4-7. Jealousy, boasting, rudeness, getting one's own way, irritability and resentment are all self-centered behaviors. Patience, kindness and forbearance are attitudes that benefit other persons. The time will come when faith will no longer be needed, for we shall see the things that are now unseen; and what we now hope for will be replaced by reality; but love is eternal. It will never become obsolete (verses 8-10).

### Think It Through

Agape sets a very high standard; much too high for us to attain on our own. But, thankfully, we don't have to manufacture love ourselves. God pours love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). The supply is vast and never-ending.

*(adapted from "Studies in 1 Corinthians" by Lucien Coleman)*

**Notice:** Bro. Bill White will be our guest teacher on March 6th. Don't miss this special event

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **PRIORITY OF LOVE (13:1-3)**

#### *Seek the greater gift love (1)*

Seeking love always is seeking the building up of others (1 Corinthians 8:1)

In seeking, we must be willing to follow the way of love (1 Corinthians 14:1)

We must try to excel in the gift of love so as to help others (1 Corinthians 14:12)

Everything we do should be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:14)

#### *Gifts without love (2)*

Gifts without love can become a stumbling block to others (Romans 14:15)

Gifts in themselves are nothing, only faith and love working through the gifts (Galatians 5:6)

Gifts are only effective if they are done out of a pure heart and good conscience toward God (1 Timothy 1:5)

#### *Giving without love (3)*

Giving in the wrong way is mistreating God (Matthew 25:45)

Giving without love is not edifying others (1 Corinthians 14:17)

We must excel in love to excel in giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)

One must give in love to please God (Phil 4:18)

### **PRACTICE AND DESCRIPTION OF LOVE (13:4-7)**

#### *Love is humble (4)*

Love as a servant and rely on the Holy Spirit for power (2 Corinthians 6:4, 6)

To be able to bear with others, it takes humility through love (Ephesians 4:2)

As God's chosen people, Christians should be covered with humility and love (Colossians 3:12)

Loving humility shows godly wisdom (James 3:17)

#### *Love is unselfish (5)*

Love says to seek the good of others (1 Corinthians 10:24)

Seek the good of others to aid in their salvation (1 Corinthians 10:33)

Christians should always be concerned for each other out of love (1 Corinthians 12:25)

To have the same attitude as Jesus is to love unselfishly (Philippians 2:3-5)

If we don't show love to others, we don't have the love of God in us (1 John 3:16-17)

#### *Love rejoices in truth (6)*

Rejoicing in the truth is clinging to what is good (Romans 12:9)

Godly repentance leads to love and rejoicing in the truth (2 Corinthians 7:9-16)

One of the most important things is that truth is spread (Philippians 1:18)

Effective and faithful service out of love brings rejoicing (Philippians 2:17-18)

Faithfulness to the truth brings joy and good reputations (3 John 3)

#### *Love is patient (7)*

Show love through patience with the weak (Romans 15:1)

Perseverance shows our trust and love of God (2 Thess 1:4-5)

Patience through love combats pride (Ecclesiastes 7:8)

Follow the patience of biblical saints as examples (James 5:10-11)

### **PERMANENCE OF LOVE (13:8-13)**

#### *Love never fails (8)*

It is the love of God that provides us hope that we can then pass on to others (Romans 5:5)

It is God's love that NEVER fails (Romans 8:35)

We should think of love as a debt to others and therefore never stop providing (Romans 13:8)

#### *Love is complete and perfect (9-12)*

Love is complete in that it can cover a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8)

Love never does harm (Romans 13:10)

Love should be rooted and grounded in God which makes it eternal (Ephesians 3:17, 19)

Love helps our maturity in God and is perfect when all things work as God desires (Ephesians 4:15-15)

Love binds into perfect unity (Colossians 3:14)

#### *Greatness of love (13)*

Loving God and others is the greatest commandment (Mark 12:29-31)

All of God's law is summed up in love (Gal 5:14)

God gives love through the power of His Holy Spirit therefore it is great (2 Timothy 1:7)

Love proves we have been born of God (1 John 4:7-9)