

- Spiritual Love
- New Commandment:
- Love One Another Just As Jesus Christ loved you
- How? How are we to love just as He loved us?
- This love is supernatural love
- This love is fruit of Holy Spirit

- I. Nothing will make greater demands on you than to love as Jesus Christ loves
- II. How did Jesus Christ love?
  - by Holy Spirit; Isa. 42:1; Matt. 3:16; Luke 4:1 1J 2:6
- III. Jesus Christ loved Sacrificial to self; beneficial to others, esp. His enemies.
- IV. SL is not defined: Eph. 3:14ff
- V. SL not defined but described
  - A. Described as a force:
    - 1. Direction
    - 2. Magnitude
    - 3. Impact/effect      John 3:16

- VI. SL will make you look **weak & foolish**
- 1. This is why people prefer Sp. Gifts, or knowledge; or charismatic experiences etc. these make you look strong & good.
- But SL often makes you look **weak & foolish**
- 2. Look at Christ on the cross!
- 1 Cor. 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, & to Gentiles foolishness,
- 3. So, SL does not exult you, you may look **foolish, weak**—SL unlike the Law has no claws to control. You cannot control with SL
- Another reason why people prefer Law, living by Law—they think it puts them into control.
- Control is an illusion!

- 4. Even Knowledge makes us look good, strong—arrogant
- 1 Cor. 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.
- 2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;
- 3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

- VII. SL makes you strong
- Here is the mystery of SL, while it may make you look weak & foolish before others SL makes you strong! Lets take faith & love!
- SL overlooks the sin & sees the need
- Prov. 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife,  
But love covers all transgressions.
- Prov. 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.
- 1 Pet. 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

- VIII. How does SL make the bel. strong?  
1 Cor. 13:
- A. Life without love 1-3
- 1 If I speak with the tongues of men & of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 & if I have the gift of prophecy, & know all mysteries and all knowledge; & if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
- 3 & if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, & if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

- prophecy,
- wisdom,
- knowledge
- & Mountain moving faith
- Without SL I am nothing

- 1. SL from HS makes all the difference
- 2. Do you realize you can send your entire life as a bel. busy for the Lord & it means nothing.
- 3. Just because you do these things does not mean they are profitable.
- 4. Anything in the flesh is not profitable—spiritually, eternally.
- John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit & are life.



- 5. Do you want your life to be a profit for Jesus Christ? Your time here on earth to count in the spiritual warfare? To be a part of something of all importance? Then desire your life to glorify Jesus Christ
- 6. SL is the alchemy of all Christian virtues. That is, it is SL that transforms, converts all we say or do in Christian life into something precious, valuable.
- “philosopher’s stone”
- This was a hypothetical substance believed to change base metals into gold.
- It is SL that changes base virtues into something precious before God.

- 7. look at the list of base Christian virtues in vss 1-3
- 8. Without SL, you **say** nothing, w/o SL you **are** nothing in the spiritual realm, w/o SL you **do** or **produce** nothing. Before man, yes, but not before God.
- It is SL that transforms all these into something precious before God.
- SL is the **Alchemizing force** of giving, of knowing, of speaking, of suffering.
- It is SL that makes your life worthy before God, not just what you do or say or give, or know!
- None of these things impress God, w/o SL
- **Nothing else matters but faith expressing itself in love**

- 9. How do we determine what is Profitable?
  - Time—Eternity
  - Earth---Heaven –Kingdom of God
  - Self---Jesus Christ
- 10. In what way does the bel. profit or is benefited?
  - 1. by giving glory to JC
  - 2. we are profited spiritually
  - 3. SL is directly related to Rewards---Crowns
    - a. **Crown of Righteousness** 2 Tim. 4:7-8
  -

- b. **Crown of Life James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres** this is /perseverance of faith
- **under trial**; testing of faith throughout your life
- **for once he has been approved**, here is where /profit comes in, approved by God he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. again this is not love from flesh...but SL from Holy Spirit

- 1. 16 impacts/effects of SL
- 16 characteristics of SL
- 16 descriptions of SL
- -remember bible does not define SL, the Bible describes when love is present.
- 2. Learn these 16 impacts of SL, memorize them
- Not so you will do them for you cannot do them, but so that you may know that you cannot produce them, but you will desire them in your soul & in your life.
- Forget about the 10 Commandments & learn these 16 impacts of SL
- For if you do love, you fulfill the whole Law!

- 3. First thing you must bear in mind that *love is the subject*
- It is love, SL that is patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag & is not arrogant
- **Not you!** you are not longsuffering, you are not kind etc.
- **SL is the subject!**

- 4. Paul will list eight positive impacts of SL & eight negative impacts of SL
- Paul starts out with saying that SL is **Longsuffering**
- Note the last one, 16th one in v 8  
**Love never fails**
- **Love is longsuffering & love is kind**

- Love is not Jealous
- Love does not brag
- SL is not arrogant
- SL does not act unbecomingly
- Love does not seek it's own
- Love is not provoked
- Love does not react when wronged
- Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness



- Love rejoices in the truth
- Love bears all things
- Love believes all things
- Love hopes all things
- Love endure all things
- Love never fails

- **Love is patient – longsuffering**
- **agape** first all the way through these vss love has the Greek definite article, which is not translated, but presence of Gk. def. article **specifies or identifies** this love.
- A fundamental characteristic of Love is that love suffers.
- SL suffers long!

- Jesus died over 2000 years ago
- Nobody has ever referred to Him as the late Jesus
  - Not even the heathens.
  - Nowhere in history.
- Nowhere has He ever been referred to in past tense.
  - He is the Living God