

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

THE BIGGEST LOSER

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Jeff Schreve

Do you realize the importance of love in our walk with Jesus?

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

1. Agape love is the highest love.

- A. It is not a love that takes.
- B. It is not a love that gives when conditions are met.
- C. It is a love that gives regardless.
- D. It is a love that we are commanded to practice.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

2. Those who operate without love miss the goal.

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:5

- A. Spiritual gifts are tools to be used in love.
- B. The most gifted person is a loser without love.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

3. Every Christian has the capacity to love.

... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5

A. Love is the telltale sign of your salvation.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you.

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3:13-16

B. Love is not manufactured; it is received.

... for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 2 Thessalonians 2:10

Does God's love truly reside in you?