

#1 AGAPE - THE VALUE OF LOVE

#2 AGAPE - THE VIRTUE OF LOVE

#3 AGAPE - THE VALIDATION OF LOVE

#4 AGAPE - THE VALOR or strength OF LOVE

#5 AGAPE - THE VICTORY OF LOVE

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

In the passage before us we have the great love chapter of the Bible. The Corinthian believers were sadly lacking in love. In I Corinthian 13 Paul shows that the spiritual gifts lose their effectiveness if they do not operate in love. In verses 8-13 Paul stresses the importance of love by stating there is permanence about love. We read in verse 8 we read: "**Charity never faileth...**"

I. LOVE NEVER LOSES ITS AFFECTIVENESS

The word "faileth" was used of a flower or leaf that withers away, falls to the ground and decays. Paul was simply saying that love is a permanent part of the Christian life.

Then to reinforce the AFFECTIVENESS of love he speaks of the LACK OF AFFECTIVENESS of certain spiritual gifts. Paul shows that there are certain spiritual gifts that are temporary in nature.

There are 3 particular gifts that Paul points

out as being temporary: prophecy, knowledge, and tongues. What Paul had to say about these 3 gifts is important in having a proper understanding of spiritual gifts. Lets look at what Paul said and consider 2 thoughts.

verse 8: "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."

HE MENTIONS 3 GIFTS (PROPHECY, KNOWLEDGE, TONGUES). THESE 3 GIFTS CAN BE PUT INTO TWO CATEGORIES. A KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THESE 3 GIFTS IS IN THE 2 VRS. PAUL USES TO DESCRIBE THEIR TEMPORARY NATURE.

BUT WHETHER THERE BE PROPHECIES, THEY SHALL FAIL; WHETHER THERE BE TONGUES, THEY SHALL CEASE; WHETHER THERE BE KNOWLEDGE, IT SHALL VANISH AWAY."

A. WHY GIFTS WILL BECOME UNNECESSARY.

Notice the statements, "**whether there be prophecies, they shall fail**" and "**whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.**"

1. NOTICE THE CEASING

The words "**fail**" and "**vanish away**" are the

same word. It means, "to render useless, to make inoperative, reduce to inactivity." The ideal is that at some point these gifts would become unnecessary.

2. NOTICE THE CAUSE

The tense of the verb indicates that something or someone would cause them to become inoperative. What that something is, is mentioned in **verse 10 as that which is perfect.**

At times those with the gift of prophesy received revelation from God and then communicated that revelation. In most cases, those with this gift simply declared what was already revealed. In either case Paul was saying that when the perfect came the gift of prophesy would be no longer necessary.

He also mentioned the gift of knowledge. As we saw this gift is the divine ability to grasp the meaning of God's revelation. It is the ability to comprehend revealed truth. It indicates a special spiritual knowledge. Again, Paul declares that when the perfect would come, this gift would no longer be necessary for then one would have complete knowledge.

The point Paul makes is that at a certain time neither of these gifts would be necessary.

A. WHY GIFTS WILL BECOME UNNECESSARY.
B. WHEN GIFTS WOULD BECOME UNUSED
whether there be tongues, they shall cease..."

The verb "**cease**" that used here is quite different from the verb "**fail**" and "vanishes away." It is a word that means, "to stop, to leave off, come to an end." The tense of the verb indicates that the gift of tongues would automatically cease of themselves.

Paul is declaring the same of tongues. Verse 8 is telling us that tongues had a limited life-span and would of and in itself cease to exist. He was simply declaring that there would come a time that the gift of tongues would no longer be used.

I. LOVE NEVER LOSES ITS AFFECTIVENESS
2. LOVE ALWAYS LEANS ON THE
AUTHORITY

verse 9: "For we know (gift of knowledge) in part, and we prophesy (gift of prophesy) in part."

Then in **verse 10** he states that which is in part, referring to the gift of knowledge and the gift of prophecy, would cease with the coming of the perfect.

A. NOTICE THE WHOLE

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

B. NOTICE THE WORDS

YOU TALKING DONE IN PART

	AV (King James)	New International
<u>Mt 9:13</u>	for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.	For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
<u>Mt 18:11</u>	For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.	OMITTED
<u>Mt 19:17</u>	Why callest thou me good?	"Why do you ask me about what is good?"

AV (King James)

New International

Mt
25:13

**Ye know
neither the day
nor the
hour wherein
the Son of man
cometh.**

You do not know
the day or the
hour.

Mk
10:24

**.how hard it
is for them that
trust in
riches to enter
into the
kingdom of
God!**

.how hard it is to
enter the
kingdom of God!

Lk
2:33

And Joseph and his mother,,,

The child's
father and
mother.

Lk
4:4

**Man shall not
live by bread
alone, but by
every word of
God.**

Man does not
live on bread
alone.

I. LOVE NEVER LOSES ITS AFFECTIVENESS

II. LOVE ALWAYS LEANS ON THE AUTHORITY

III. LOVE LONGS FOR ADULTHOOD

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spake 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 through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

A. IT REPLACES CHILDISH WAYS

When I was a child. The idea here is, that the knowledge which we now have, cannot be compared with that which we can have.

B. IT REPLACES CHILDISH WORDS

I spake as a child,

C. IT REPLACES CHILDISH WEAKNESS

I understood as a child, I thought as a child:

I understood as a child. My understanding was feeble and imperfect. I had narrow and imperfect views of things. I knew little. I fixed my attention on objects which I now see to be of little value.

I thought as a child: I reasoned based on the knowledge I had. **but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

I. LOVE NEVER LOSES ITS AFFECTIVENESS

II. LOVE ALWAYS LEANS ON THE AUTHORITY

III. LOVE LONGS FOR ADULTHOOD

IV. LOVE LEARNS TO ACCEPT

A. IT LEARNS TO ACCEPT THE FACTS

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

B. IT LOVES TO ACCEPT FUTURE

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.