

# God's Enduring Priority Is Love

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Outline of 1 Corinthians:

- I. **Introduction (1:1-9)**
- II. **Problems Reported (1:10-6:20)**
- III. **Questions Raised (7:1-16:4)**
  - e. Spiritual Expression (12:1-14:40)

Spiritual Expression = *how the Holy Spirit's work is expressed in the church*

## A. The Necessity of Love (13:1-3)

Lack of love is a fatal flaw in any believer's relationship with God and function in the church.

## B. The Character of Love (13:4-7)

Love, as God defines it, always acts in the best interest of the one loved, no matter the cost.

## C. The Permanence of Love (13:8-13)

### 1. Love is permanent in contrast to the revelatory gifts (13:8-12)

**v8** – Revelatory gifts will not continue forever (but love will).

1 Cor. 13:8 (NET) -

Love never ends.

But if there are prophecies, they will be set aside;

if there are tongues, they will cease;

if there is knowledge, it will be set aside.

- prophecies and knowledge will be set aside (passively) – *katargeō*

- tongues will cease (all on their own) – *pauō*

**v9** – Why? Revelatory gifts only give partial revelation.

**v10** – When? Revelatory gifts will be inactive when complete revelation has come.

*Critical Interpretation Question: What is “that which is perfect” referring to?*

- What does the word translated “perfect” (Greek *teleion*) mean?

- What is the central contrast of the passage?

- So, what is the going to replace partial revelation?

**v11** – Illustration of logical progression

**v12** – Illustration of increased clarity

→ **Therefore**, pursue the way of love as your top priority.

## 2. Love is permanent in contrast to the chief virtues (13:13)

**v13a** – Virtues of faith, hope, and love all remain after revelatory gifts cease.

- These three “abide” and are essential for the duration of the time the church is on earth.

**v13b** – Of these, love will always define our relationship with God and with the redeemed.

→ **Therefore**, pursue the way of love as your top priority.

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*Why would a clear understanding that God is done with revealing truth be valuable for you?*

1. Recognize the value of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Treasure the way of love as the primary manifestation of the \_\_\_\_\_.