**PP Love Is…**

**Part 12-1 Corinthians 13:13 *The Surpassing Value of Love* 11/16-17/2024**

Have you ever heard of what is called planned obsolescence?

Probably, even if you didn’t realize the fancy term, at least if you’ve ever said, *‘They don’t make*

*them like they used to!’*

An example is the Centennial Bulb, still faintly shining after 115 years in Livermore, California

Thomas Edison first made the light bulb with carbon filaments, 8 times thicker than the later

tungsten ones, made, he wanted, to last as long as possible

In the 1920’s, in what would be called the *‘Phoebus cartel’*, top light bulb manufacturers around

the world-including GE-colluded to reduce the lifetime of a lightbulb to 1,000 hours

From cell phones where worn out batteries cannot be replace, to printer cartridges which cannot

be refilled, or the deliberately weak auto parts necessitating service costs, planned

obsolescence is a very real thing, but it’s not original to our modern technological world

God has given spiritual gifts to build up His church so we can grow up in Christ, but these gifts,

supernatural enablements beyond natural abilities, have an expiration date

The church at Corinth coveted these gifts, especially prophecy, tongues and knowledge

The city of Corinth had their versions of these gifts seen in the sophists and oracles of the 1st

century world

The sophists claimed to teach the secret wisdom of the gods, while oracles would go into

drug-induced trances with strange mutterings that needed to be interpreted, supposedly

predicting the future

No wonder that church clamored after these three gifts, yet Paul said they would cease, but

what would never cease or come to an end, is ***‘love’***

Paul’s final comment in this passage is seen verse 13, and let’s look at it briefly

**PP *“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”***

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

Let’s take just a few moments to look at these three: ***‘Faith, hope, and love’***

**PP** *Hope is faith for your future, convinced that God has always loved you in your past*

Without the love of God, we would not be able to trust Him, and there could be no hope for us

It is faith that unites us to Christ and persuades us that the Heavenly Father loves us in the way

that He loves His Son which is the bedrock of our hope

**PP *“God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

**Romans 5:8**

Can we not have faith that the God Who gave His only Son to die so we could live has the ability

*and* the willingness to guarantee our future?

Suppose you walked into an old jewelry store and you saw a necklace you knew, despite its dusty

appearance, was worth millions and the store owner was selling for $100,000

Would you not borrow against your home equity to buy it, knowing you would recoup it many

times over?

The moment we believed in Jesus for our salvation, persuaded that His death and resurrection

would save us from the penalty for our sins, we were joined to Him by that faith

In that moment, we became co-heirs with Christ, the riches of love the Father has for His Son we

now share; the guarantee of future blessings of peace, joy, security are all ours

God now views us the way He view His Son, pouring out His affection on us and the reason He

does, is because on that hideous cross, He poured out all of our sins on His Son, treating

Him the way He should have treated us

As incredible as it is, the Father sent His Son to die in our place, so we could live…this is love!

In the English language, we use the word *love* in many different ways

We use it for romantic love for another person; friendship love; affection for a pet; fond

memories of a vacation; etc.

In the Greek language, ***‘love’*** was used in several ways as well, 4 of them in fact

**PP** *Eros*, romantic love full of passion and intimacy, and it isn’t found in the bible

**PP** *Storge*, affectionate love between family members, and it isn’t found in the bible

**PP** *Philia*, affectionate love between close friends, and not what we are to have with an enemy

**PP** *Agape* is the word here in 1 Corinthians 13, and it is the unconditional, sacrificial, selfless

love of God that He pours into the hearts of His children, even a love for an enemy

Paul tells us that this selfless, sacrificial love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit **PP *“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given***

***to us.”* Romans 5:5**

We received a heart full of agape love, and also the Holy Spirit to give us the power to live it out

**PP *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”* Galatians 5:25**

Since we were given life by the Holy Spirit the moment we trusted in Jesus, we are changed

from the inside out to have the character of Jesus as we walk day by day with the Spirit

The Spirit produces love in our lives: **PP *“the fruit of the Spirit is love”* Galatians 5:22**

What we have seen in this *Love Is…*series are what agape love looks like in action

Love is ***patient***, able to delay a response to give God to work in the other person and yourself

Love is ***kind***, usable goodness that seeks to meet the needs of others

Love doesn’t ***envy***, doesn’t resent someone for having what you don’t, wishing they didn’t either

Love doesn’t ***boas***t, doesn’t position yourself to receive worship from others, forgetting God

Love isn’t ***arrogant***, isn’t puffed up and it isn’t ***rude***, dishonoring others

Paul got us to the center virtue of love, it ***does not insist on its own way***, it isn’t oriented on self

Love is not ***irritable***, full of resentment because things aren’t going the way you want them to

Love also is not ***resentful***, keeping a record of someone’s wrongs to use it against them later

Love does not ***rejoice at wrongdoing***, gaining no pleasure from someone else’s misfortune

Love instead ***rejoices with the truth***, but loves that which aligns with the character of Jesus

Love ***bears all things***, supporting others up so that they can flourish in life

Love ***believes all things***, unwilling to condemn someone without proof, giving benefit of doubt

Love ***hopes all things***, persuaded that someone’s failure is not final, positive for their future

Love ***endures all things***, it simply continues for others, and will not give up

This, Paul wrote, is what love looks like in action, it is the ***‘still more excellent way’*** greater even

than faith and hope, so what should be our response?

**PP** (fit these on one slide) **Five brief applications:**

**PP 1**-*Drill deeply into your beliefs that only what we do that springs from love has eternal value*

**PP** **2**-*Be brave and ask two people who know you well which of these virtues you struggle with*

**PP** **3**-*Ask those same two people to tell you which virtues they have seen you growing in*

**PP** **4**-*Confess the areas where you struggle, praise God for the areas where you are growing*

**PP 5-***Start the day asking God to help love like Him and end the day evaluating how you did*

Christian, you have a great love, the very love of God, poured fully into your heart

And the Holy Spirit dwells in you working with your obedience to put God’s love into action

**PP *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments.”* 1 John 5:1–2**