**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Learning to Love |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Corinthians 13 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2202 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. 1 Corinthians 13 is an epic chapter in the Word of God.
      1. It is a pen of praise to love.
   2. What the world needs is love.
   3. 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 are about spiritual gifts.
      1. In the middle of these, the Apostle Paul gave us an entire chapter on love.
   4. The Corinthian church placed a lot of emphasis upon spiritual gifts, especially on the more showy gifts like prophecy, tongues, miracles, and healings.
      1. But they had a deficit in the matter of love.
         1. They thought that they were super saints and better than others because they were exhibiting what they considered to be some of the showier gifts.
            1. In the middle of this, Paul teaches them about love.
   5. The mark of a Spirit-filled person is not a spiritual gift.
      1. A person can be a baby Christian and have a spiritual gift.
         1. Every baby Christian has spiritual gifts.
         2. We may not have discovered our gift yet, but we have one.
      2. Spiritual gifts, whether it is a showy gift like performing miracles or a humble gift like service, are not signs that someone is a spiritual person.
   6. The mark of a spiritual person is not the gifts of the Spirit, but the fruit of the Spirit.
      1. Galatians 5:22-23
         1. As God describes the fruit of the Spirit, He begins with the first quality which is “love.”
            1. And the rest flow out of that.
   7. If we are going to be in this world, then we have to have love in order to have any sense of joy, victory, and service that counts.
   8. Love is a commodity that is rare today because we live in a wicked world.
      1. Matthew 24:12
         1. Sometimes we find ourselves hesitating to help others because there is so much iniquity in the world.
         2. The word “iniquity” in this passage literally means “lawlessness.”
         3. We have abounding lawlessness and abating love.
   9. John 13:34
   10. Love is the attracting element in a church.
       1. Love is not true because we advertise it; it is only true if we demonstrate it.
   11. In the King James Version of the Scriptures, the word “charity” is used for the word “love.”
       1. It is not used in the sense that we use it today, such as helping those who are needy.
          1. Here it means “love.”
   12. 1 Corinthians 13:1-4
       1. In these verses, the Apostle Paul is speaking of spiritual gifts.
          1. The gifts of prophecy, knowledge, and faith.
       2. The Corinthians were envying one another’s gifts, and those who had the showier gifts were flaunting them.
   13. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
       1. “Unseemly things.”
          1. They were getting carried away and doing ridiculous things in the name of the Holy Spirit.
       2. Verse 8 tells us that tongues will cease in and of themselves.
   14. 1 Corinthians 13:8-11
       1. The Corinthians were childish Christians.
          1. The Apostle Paul said that he could not speak to them as unto spiritual but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.
             1. 1 Corinthians 3:1
          2. They were bickering and acting like children.
       2. In verse 11, Paul uses an analogy when he says, “When I was a child…”
          1. That’s the way he was in the natural world.
          2. He is telling the Corinthians to stop acting like big babies.
   15. 1 Corinthians 13:12-13
       1. The word “glass” here means “mirror.”
          1. The mirrors of that day were not like our highly polished mirrors of today.
             1. A person could see, but could not see clearly.
   16. In today’s message, we will look at three characteristics of love as we consider learning to love.
   17. Today’s message will present three things we should consider as we learn to love.
2. the excelling values of love (1 corinthians 13:1-3)
   1. Love is more valuable than oratory.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:1
      2. The world has heard enough loveless sermons.
      3. The world has heard enough of showy gifts.
      4. The mark of a Spirit-filled life is not speaking in a foreign tongue, but controlling the one tongue that we have and letting the law of love be in that tongue.
   2. Love is more valuable than prophecy.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:2
      2. A person may have the gift of prophecy; but without love, what good is it?
         1. There are people who have Heaven on their mind but Hell in their heart.
   3. Love is more valuable than knowledge.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:2
      2. What good is it to have a bright head if you don’t have a right heart?
      3. People are not that interested in us unloading theological facts on them.
         1. Are we just giving them information, or is the love of Jesus Christ coming through our hearts?
      4. The Bible says that we are to study, and we should thank God if we have the spiritual gift of knowledge.
         1. 2 Timothy 2:15
   4. Love is more valuable than faith.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:2
      2. Faith is important.
         1. We cannot get to Heaven without trusting the Lord.
      3. What good is it to have faith to remove mountains if we cannot remove malice?
         1. If our hearts are filled with hate, then we are nothing.
   5. Love is more valuable than giving to the poor; what we call charity.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:3
      2. We often hear that we can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.
      3. A lot of giving is giving instead of ourselves, rather than giving ourselves.
         1. If we give from loveless hearts, then it amounts to nothing.
   6. Love is greater than martyrdom.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:3
      2. A person can die for their religion and still not have love.
         1. There are terrorists who are on suicide missions in the name of religion.
            1. They do not love other people because they do not love themselves.
      3. Many false cults are based on zeal, but not on love.
      4. A person may not fear dying because he really does not know what living is.
         1. He doesn’t know living if he does not know love.
   7. The excelling values of love are greater than any spiritual gift.
3. the virtues of love (1 corinthians 13:4-6)
   1. Love enables us to be patient.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:4
      2. Love is not blind.
         1. Love does not see people as having no faults.
         2. Love sees more, but love forgives.
            1. Love forgives seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21-22

* + 1. Real love is not giving people what they deserve, but giving people what they need.
    2. Love endures.
  1. Love enables us to be kind.
     1. 1 Corinthians 13:4
     2. Kindness is reacting to people with love.
     3. Love is kind.
     4. A lot of people are religious, but they are not necessarily kind.
        1. We need to be nice.
  2. Love enables us not to envy.
     1. 1 Corinthians 13:4
     2. Envy and love do not dwell in the same heart.
     3. We can tell whether or not we have love by being able to rejoice when someone else is blessed.
        1. If we cringe when others are being praised, then there is no love in our hearts.
     4. If we think that somebody else’s gain is somehow our loss, then we do not have love.
     5. Proverbs 14:30
  3. Love enables us to be humble.
     1. A big head and a big heart are never in the same person.
     2. 1 Corinthians 13:4
     3. Love and pride do not dwell in the same heart.
     4. Why do churches fuss sometimes, and why do husbands and wives squabble?
        1. Proverbs 13:10
           1. Only by pride.
        2. There has never been a war, fuss, or division that was not caused by pride.
     5. Pride and love are in opposition one to another.
     6. There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them.
        1. Problems can be solved if we attack the problem rather than one another.
     7. Jonathan Edwards, a great preacher in the Great Awakening, said that there is nothing that puts a man so much out of the devil’s reach as genuine humility.
        1. It is love that enables us to be humble.
           1. Love is not puffed up.

1 Corinthians 13:4

* 1. Love is courteous.
     1. 1 Corinthians 13:5
        1. Love does not behave unseemly.
           1. It doesn’t do weird or strange things.
     2. Manners are just love in little things, even in marriage.
        1. Such as a husband opening the car door for his wife.
        2. Love can say please and thank you.
     3. Love is unselfish.
        1. 1 Corinthians 13:5
           1. Love seeks not her own.
        2. A loving person doesn’t proclaim that they know their rights.
           1. Someone wisely said, “Teach a man his rights, and you have a revolution; teach him his responsibilities, and you have a revival.”
           2. What can cause us to forego our rights and take up our responsibilities except genuine love?
        3. There needs to be more unselfishness in the average church.
  2. Love is not irritable.
     1. 1 Corinthians 13:5
     2. Do you have a hair trigger?
     3. Are you easily irritated?
     4. What spills out of us is what we are full of.
     5. We need to learn to drown insults in a river of love.
     6. Bad tempers are something that we never lose by losing our temper.
  3. Love enables us to forgive.
     1. 1 Corinthians 13:5
        1. Love does not keep a record.
        2. The word “thinketh” in this passage is a bookkeeping term.
           1. It does not keep a record.
     2. Don’t become a collector of grudges.
        1. Let those things go.
        2. Don’t harbor a grudge.
     3. Love enables us to forgive and forget.
  4. Love is sympathetic.
     1. 1 Corinthians 13:6
     2. Gossips are people who rejoice in iniquity.
        1. They love to tell something, and it is not an honor if somebody gossips to us.
        2. Gossips seem to be glad about injustices.
        3. They seem to delight in saying bad things about other people.
        4. A wise man once said that before you listen to anything about another member of the church or before you say anything, make it pass through these three gates:
           1. Is it true?
           2. Is it kind?
           3. Is it necessary?

1. the victories of love (1 corinthians 13:7-13)
   1. Love conquers.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:7-8
      2. Love never fails.
      3. The way to get rid of our enemies is to love them.
      4. If we love Jesus enough, then we are not going to harm Him, hurt Him, or cause Him shame by the way we live.
   2. Love completes.
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:8-11
         1. When the Apostle Paul talks about “that which is perfect,” he is talking about love.
         2. Apart from love, all the gifts they had been using were toys.
            1. They were just kid’s stuff.
         3. Prophecy, tongues, and knowledge will pass away.
      2. One day we will stand before the Lord, and He will ask us why He should He let us into His Heaven.
         1. We may say that we prophesied in His name.
            1. He says, “Prophecy shall cease. Depart from Me, you that work iniquity.”

1 Corinthians 13:8

Luke 13:27

* + - 1. We may say that we had knowledge and was filled with religious philosophy and understanding.
         1. He says, “Knowledge shall pass away. Depart from Me, you that work iniquity.”

1 Corinthians 13:8

Luke 13:27

* + - 1. We may say that we had the gifts of tongues and said many wonderful things.
         1. He says, “Tongues shall cease. Depart from Me, you that work iniquity.”

1 Corinthians 13:8

Luke 13:27

* + - 1. Again, the question is asked, “Why should I let you into My Heaven?”
         1. Our answer should be that we have been saved by grace.
         2. We have been born again.
         3. Our hearts should be filled with love for God and our fellow man.

The Lord says, “Enter into the joys of the Lord.”

* 1. Love continues.
     1. 1 Corinthians 13:12-13
     2. One of these days, faith will be unnecessary when we stand before Jesus and see Him face to face.
        1. Faith will turn to sight.
        2. Hope will turn to reality.
           1. Hope is assurance based on the Word of God.
     3. But love will go on and on throughout eternity.
     4. There was a martyr who said as he was dying, “Farewell all the world. Goodbye faith. Farewell hope. Welcome love.”
        1. Then, he stepped over into Heaven.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. You cannot exercise your spiritual gift as you should unless you are filled with love.
   2. You are not going to be filled with love until you have evaluated, appreciated, and appropriated the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.
      1. Only Jesus can put this kind of love in your heart.
   3. The mark of a born-again Christian is a genuine love for Jesus and a love for people.
   4. 1 John 4:20
   5. Romans 5:5
      1. The only way that you can have true love in your heart is to have the Holy Spirit in your heart.
         1. The only way that you can have the Holy Spirit in your heart is to be saved.
            1. And the only way you can be saved is to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16