

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Real Love

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 Corinthians 13

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #0952

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) 1 Corinthians is one of the best known and best loved chapters in all of the Bible.
  - i) This poem to love was written by the Apostle Paul to a church that needed more unity.
  - ii) In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul is dealing with the disunity that was in the church concerning the Lord's Supper.
  - iii) 1 Corinthians 13 deals with unity in the body of Christ.
- b) 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- c) We are fast approaching a loveless world.
  - i) The Lord Jesus said that in the last days, iniquity shall abound.
    - (1) Matthew 24:12
      - (a) The word "iniquity" here literally means "lawlessness."
      - (2) Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.
    - ii) We see this happening today.
      - (1) Because there is so much lawlessness, many are afraid to stop on the highway to help a stranger.
      - (2) Many are afraid to entertain a stranger in their home.
    - iii) It has been said that the more machines act like men, the more men will behave like machines.
      - (1) Machines don't have much love in them, and we have that kind of society today.
  - d) The Apostle Paul's ode and poem to love falls into three natural divisions.
    - i) We will look at these three divisions in today's message.

2) LOVE EXCELS (1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3)

- a) Love excels all other things.
- b) Love excels oratory.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:1
    - (1) Even if we could speak like an angel, what good is it if we don't have love?
  - ii) There are those today who put a great emphasis on speaking in tongues.
    - (1) There is a biblical gift of speaking in tongues.
      - (a) But a large percentage of what is called "tongues-speaking" today is not the biblical gift.
        - (i) There is a satanic counterfeit.
      - (2) Tongue-speaking is not a sign of being filled with love.
        - (a) The sign that we are filled with love is not that we can speak in many tongues but that we can control the one tongue we have.
    - (3) 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
      - (a) Here was a church that made much of speaking in tongues, but they were horribly fractured and divided.
      - (b) Paul told them not to talk about their spiritual gifts if they were not loving one another.

- c) Love exceeds prophecy.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:2
  - ii) Prophecy is the ability to speak theological truth in such a concise and forthright way that it compels and encourages people.
    - (1) It exhorts, edifies, and encourages others.
  - iii) Love is more valuable than prophecy.
- d) Love exceeds knowledge.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:2
    - (1) A right heart is more important than a bright head.
    - (2) The Apostle Paul is not stating that we shouldn't have oratory, and he is not against prophecy or knowledge.
      - (a) But knowledge without love is a hurtful thing.
  - ii) It has been said that people will not care how much we know until they know how much we care.
    - (1) What people are looking for, and rightfully so, is love.
- e) Love excels faith.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:2
    - (1) Faith is wonderful, and we cannot be saved without faith.
    - (2) What Paul is stating here is that if we have enough faith to remove mountains but we cannot remove malice, what good is it?
      - (a) In reality, a heart that is headquarters for hate would not be able to remove mountains.
      - (b) Paul is using a hypothetical.
- f) Love excels charity.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:3
  - ii) We can give without loving, but we can't love without giving.
    - (1) Some people give because of a guilty conscience.
    - (2) Others give instead of themselves rather than giving of themselves.
      - (a) It is sometimes cleaner and neater to write a check than to give of ourselves.
      - (b) It is one thing to give a starving man a fish, but it's a better thing to teach him how to fish.
        - (i) This world needs people who will give of themselves.
    - iii) If we bestow our goods to the poor but have not love, it is nothing.
- g) Love excels martyrdom.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:3
  - ii) There are those who are loveless who become martyrs.
    - (1) False cults have their martyrs.
    - (2) Many have died for causes that were not loving causes.
  - iii) A person may not fear dying because he doesn't know what living is.
- h) Love excels and is greater than all of these other things.
  - i) And all of these things, as good as they are, are meaningless without love.

### 3) LOVE ENABLES (1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-6)

- a) The things that we need to do, ought to do, and want to do, we can only do through love.
- b) Love enables us to be patient.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:4
  - ii) Love isn't blind; love sees more.
    - (1) We see, but we still forgive.
    - (2) We have this patience.
  - iii) Love forgives seventy times seven.
    - (1) Matthew 18:21-22
  - iv) Love does not give a person what they deserve.
    - (1) It gives to a person what they need.
- c) Love enables us to be kind.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:4
  - ii) Kindness and love will win people to Jesus Christ.
- d) Love enables us not to envy.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:4
  - ii) Here's a test to see whether or not you're an envious person:
    - (1) Do you rejoice in the success of other people, including your peers?
    - (2) Can you rejoice when someone else has a blessing?
    - (3) Do you cringe when someone else is praised?
      - (a) If you answer "yes" to these questions, then you need to load up on love.
  - iii) Envy is the rottenness of the bones.
    - (1) It hurts us far more than it hurts the person we envy.
- e) Love will enable us to be humble.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 11:4
  - ii) Love and pride do not dwell in the same heart.
    - (1) We can either be big headed or big hearted, but we can't be both.
  - iii) Love does not vaunt itself.
  - iv) There is only one reason why people don't get along and only one thing that causes so many arguments: pride.
    - (1) Proverbs 13:10
    - (2) The contention that we have is ego against ego.
    - (3) There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them.
  - v) It's not uncommon to hear a Christian say, "I know my rights."
    - (1) What rights does a dead man have?
    - (2) As Christians, we've been crucified with Christ.
      - (a) We are not our own.
      - (b) We are bought with a price.
  - vi) Knowledge puffs up; love fills up.
    - (1) So, love enables us to be humble.
  - vii) Jonathan Edwards said that nothing sets a man so much out of the devil's reach as humility.

- f) Love enables us to be courteous.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:5
    - (1) Rightly translated, this means that love is courteous.
      - (a) To be unseemly is to be discourteous.
  - ii) Courtesy is love in the little things.
    - (1) It is love that says, "Please," and "Thank you."
    - (2) It is love that steps back and gives the other first place.
  - iii) Our homes, where we work, and the place where we worship would be sweeter places if we would learn to be courteous.
    - (1) When our churches are filled with love, then it is self last and others first.
- g) Love enables us to be unselfish.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:5
    - (1) "Love seeketh not her own."
  - ii) Someone once said that when we teach people their rights, we have a revolution; when we teach people their responsibilities, then we have a revival.
    - (1) It is time that we start putting an emphasis upon our responsibilities to other people.
- h) Love enables us not to be irritable.
  - i) A blot upon an otherwise wonderful Christian is temper.
  - ii) It has been said that no form of vice or worldliness does more to un-Christianize society than an evil temper.
  - iii) 1 Corinthians 13:5
    - (1) Love is not easily provoked.
  - iv) Temper is never something we lose by losing it.
- i) Love enables us to be forgiving.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:5
    - (1) Love thinks no evil.
    - (2) In this passage, the word for "thinketh no evil" is a bookkeeping term which literally means that love does not store up grudges.
      - (a) Love doesn't keep books.
      - (b) Love does not keep an account.
  - ii) Love learns to drown insults in a river of love.
    - (1) It learns to forget those things.
    - (2) It does not collect grudges.
- j) Love enables us to be sympathetic.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 13:6
  - ii) Love is never glad about injustice.
  - iii) Love doesn't listen to gossip.
    - (1) Before we listen to someone say something bad about another person, we need to make sure it passes through these three golden gates:
      - (a) Is it true?
      - (b) Is it kind?

- (c) Is it necessary?
  - (2) Love does not rejoice in iniquity; it rejoices in truth.
- k) Love enables us to live this way.
  - i) We can't live this way without love, and we don't have this kind of love to give.
    - (1) The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
    - (2) The only way to love is to be filled with the Spirit.
- 4) LOVE ENDURES (1 CORINTHIANS 13:7-13)
  - a) 1 Corinthians 13:7-8
    - i) There are many things that don't endure.
  - b) Love conquers.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 13:7-8
    - ii) What a mighty force love is!
    - iii) The way to get rid of an enemy is to love him to death.
      - (1) Make a friend out of him.
  - c) Love completes.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 13:8-11
      - (1) Compared to love, everything else is kid's stuff.
        - (a) "When I was a child, I thought as a child, spoke as a child, and acted like a child."
      - ii) Prophecy, tongues, and knowledge are going to pass away.
        - (1) One day, we will stand before the Lord, and He will ask why should He let us into Heaven.
          - (a) If we say that it's because we prophesied or had knowledge or because we were orators, then He will say, "Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity. I never knew you."
            - (i) Matthew 7:21-23
            - (b) But if we say that it's because we have received Christ as Lord and Savior, and we are therefore filled with the love of God, then He will tell us to enter into the joys of His Kingdom.
    - d) Love continues.
      - i) 1 Corinthians 13:12-13
      - ii) One day, faith will turn into sight.
        - (1) One day when we finally see Him, our faith will turn to sight.
          - (a) We haven't yet seen Him, but we love Him.
          - (2) When faith turns to sight, then we will not need faith anymore.
          - (3) Hope will turn into reality, so there will no longer be any need for hope.
          - (4) But love will go on and on.
            - (a) Love continues.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) When others think about our churches, may they say, “How they love one another!”
- b) The only way to know this kind of love is through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) 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.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16