

1 Corinthians 13  
"It's Time to be Holy"

***"The opposite of love in 1 Corinthians 13 is not hate but pride..." (John Piper)***

Introduction:

***1 John 3:11-18, "For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <sup>12</sup> We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. <sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."***

1. If we have truly received God's love we will love our brothers and sisters:

***1 John 4:7-12, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us."***

1. Only those who have been born of God and know God:

2. Only those who are in Christ are capable of:

3. It is as we love one another that reveals:

***Galatians 5:6, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."***

1. Love is the:

**It is 1 Corinthians 13 that places these scriptures into real time.**

***1 Corinthians 13:1-3, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."***

1. All the eloquence in the world to speak the Word of God means nothing:

2. All the knowledge and power in the world mean nothing:

3. All the good deeds and acts of service in the world mean nothing:

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant<sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth."**

1. When it would be easier to be impatient and thoughtless:

2. When it would be easier to desire what belongs to another or to boast about what we have that others don't have:

3. When it would be easier to have an exaggerated sense of our own importance or to be discourteous to others:

4. When it would be easier to be selfish:

5. When it would be easier to be out of sorts and believe the worst about others:

**1 Corinthians 13:7-8a, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends."**

1. Just at the moment we want to give up on those who show no reason for us to continue to love them:

**1 Corinthians 13:8b-12, "As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."**

1. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant for the church:

2. When we see Jesus, we will have no need of the gifts:

**1 Corinthians 13:13, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."**

1. Faith is necessary and hope is encouraging:

Conclusion: