

March 30, 2025

The Excellent Way of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1 Corinthians 13 speaks to everyone's heart. People have a deep desire for the description of love in these verses to be true. At the same time, these verses are not just a beautiful descriptor of love. Love is the marker which signifies all people who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to the church, those gifts must be exercised out of love so they have meaningful and lasting value.

Additional Verses:

Matthew 22:34-40

John 13:35

Romans 5:6-11

1 John 3:18, 4:8

Outline:

1. The way of love fills life with meaning.

2. The way of love fills life with victory.

3. The way of love fills life with a future.

Study Questions:

1. How does this passage on love fit with the discussion of spiritual gifts? How can the lack of love contribute to problems in the church?

2. Which characteristic of love is the easiest for you to practice? Which is the hardest? How can you grow in that area?

3. Which characteristic of love do you enjoy being demonstrated toward you? Why does that demonstrate love toward you?

4. Why is love not a spiritual gift?

5. Why is love greater than faith and hope? Why are spiritual gifts not needed in heaven?

6. How can you demonstrate love in practical ways to those around you?

7. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?