

# Studies in 1 Corinthians

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## *Lesson XXXVII: A More Excellent Way!*

TEXT: 1 COR. 12: 31—13:3 (NASV)

**12:31** But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

**13:1** If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

**2** If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

**3** And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Upon first glance, chapter 13 seems to be a detour from Paul's discourse on spiritual gifts in chapter 12 (later continued in chapter 14). Just how does chapter 13 tie-in to both chapters 12 and 14?
2. Which of the four most common Greek words for love does Paul use here?
  - a. E\_\_\_\_\_ (passionate, sensual, physical affection)
  - b. P\_\_\_\_\_ (friendship, loyalty to friends, family, community)
  - c. S\_\_\_\_\_ (natural fondness and loyalty of family members)
  - d. A\_\_\_\_\_ (self-sacrificial love)

3. What is best measurement of Christian maturity: a thorough knowledge of the Bible, spiritual giftedness, or love?
  
4. How does God view our teaching, worship, and giving if it is not motivated by love?
  
5. What are some warning signs of a loveless church?
  
6. How effective will our ministry to others without love...with love? What is at stake here, anyway?
  
7. Finally, how can we as individuals and as a community of believers become more loving to each other...the world?