

Opening Our Gifts: The Greatest Gifts

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals or of angels, but do not have love, I am only resounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, what is partial disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

- We are in a series called, “Opening Our Gifts.”
- The title of this week’s sermon is, “The Greatest Gift.”
- Our text today is 1 Corinthians 13, often called the, “Love Chapter.”
- The Apostle Paul is saying that if we have all of the spiritual gifts we talked about last week, “it don’t mean a thing,” if we do not have love.
- The Apostle Paul gives us a biblical definition of love.
 1. Love is patient.
 2. Love is kind.
 3. Love does not envy.
 4. Love does not boast.
 5. Love is not proud.
 6. Love does not dishonor others.
 7. Love is not self-seeking.
 8. Love is not easily angered.
 9. Love keeps no record of wrongs.
 10. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.
 11. Love always protects.
 12. Love always trusts.
 13. Love always hopes.
 14. Love always perseveres.
- Paul says that all of the spiritual gifts are temporary and partial.
- When Jesus returns, all the gifts will have served their purpose and will pass away.
- Paul says that when Jesus returns, only three things will remain, only three things will still matter: faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love.
- This kind of love is a gift. It is the greatest gift.