

**ACCM**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021. **Topic: Letter to the Corinthians Parts 13**

I Cor 13.

**A MORE EXCELLENT WAY**

I Cor 12 ended with the introduction of chapter 13 by saying in I Cor 12:31 but earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. The NLT version says but now let me show you a way of life that is best of all. Another scripture in Colossians 3:14 says love is the bond of perfection. So this evening we are have titled today’s Bible study “A More Excellent Way”. The way I interpret Col 3:14 is that love brings it all together. Love helps us or saves us from misusing the gifts.

If love is misunderstood, it loses its value. As I began to study this topic, one idea that came to me was that it takes the person giving love and the person receiving it to put love in its right perspective. Someone could be giving adequate love but if the person to who it is supposed to go to, does not see it as love, the circuit is incomplete. May the Lord grant us understanding as we go into this all important discussion of love?

**OUTLINE**:

You will find that at the very beginning, Apostle Paul compares love with the very greatly coveted gifts by the Corinthians which is the gift of speaking in tongues**.**

**1. A few things were listed that will amount to nothing without love. What are they?**

1. Tongues
2. Prophecy
3. Understand all mysteries and knowledge
4. Faith
5. Very intense sacrificial giving or good works

One of them did not look like a gift although it could also be a gift.

**2. What do you think fascinated the Corinthians so much about the gift of speaking in tongues?** Show off. Matt 6:5-6

**3. What are the dangers of exhibiting these gifts without love?** I Cor 10:12, Matt 7:22, Matt 6:1-2. Do we see similar things in church today? Give examples if any.

**4. Why are many Christians more excited to show their gift rather than show their love?**

**5. Love is not a gift so what is it?** Gal 5:22-23, Col 3:14,

**6. Since love is not a gift, what can we do to have a heart of love?** I Cor 14:1, I John 4:7-8, Gal 5:22

1. **What is love? It is not defined in Corinthians but it tell us how we can recognize it.**

* It suffers long
* It is kind
* It is not envious
* No show offs
* Not puffed up
* Not rude
* Not selfish
* Not provoked
* Thinks no evil
* Does not rejoice in evil or iniquity but rejoices in the truth
* Bears all thing
* Believes all things
* Hopes all things
* Endures all things
* This tells us that love is spiritual

1. **Compare and contrast love and spiritual gifts**
2. Love is not a gift, it is a virtue
3. Love can be developed and imparted through our relationship with the Holy Spirit. I John 4:7-8,
4. Gift is given by God and according to His discretion but love is a command. I Cor 12:7-10
5. You may choose not to use your gift and still be a believer but your Christianity is questionable when you do not show love. James 2:18, Gal 5:6
6. Love is a fruit. The gift is not a fruit. Gal 5:22.
7. Love is eternal and the gift is temporal I Cor 13:8.
8. **Can you say in your own opinion that the church as it stands today is manifesting sufficient love to the people internally and externally?**

Finally, love must be visible to be valuable. Your love is of no value if we cannot feel it or see it in action. Love cannot be inactive, it must be active. John 3:16. The criticism of today’s church is that the people, both internal and external are not able to see the expression of love by the church.