



Week 7

Sermon Series: Rich Spiritual Worship

Sermon Title: "Love is Better"

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Study Handout Week of: October 17, 2021

Group Week of: October 24, 2021

Sermon Date: October 31, 2021

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Tongues of Men – Acts 2:1-13
Day 2	Need for Clear Tongues – 1 Cor 14:6-12
Day 3	Prophecy Without Love – Matt 7:21-23
Day 4	Love – John 15:9-17
Day 5	Love – 1 John 4:7-21

The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If 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. ³If 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.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message God and Paul are speaking to the Corinthians (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) What is meant when Paul writes "tongues of men or of angels"?
- 3) What is meant by Paul when he ends verse 2 with "I am nothing?"
- 4) Is it possible to give away possessions without love?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) What happens when Christians practice their spiritual gifts, serve the body, teach bible studies, and/or lead in worship *without love*? Write out what you believe happens, and if you have specific examples, write them out below.

- 2) Paul says that if I speak in tongues without love, then I am a resounding gong or clanging cymbal. What is your gift or role in the church and what do you become if you perform that gift or role without love? (For example, a greeter without love becomes nothing more than a billboard). Share your answer with your group.

- 3) It is easy to give ourselves “value” and to become puffed up by exercising our spiritual gifts or taking on important roles in the church. Yet Paul says, that if we practice our spiritual gifts apart from love we are *nothing*.
 - i. Why does the absence of love make a Christian “nothing” even if they are practicing their spiritual gifts or serving in their role in the body?

 - ii. How can Christians ensure they are practicing their gifts in love, and not for other reasons?

- 4) Read Matthew 6:1-4. Do Christians get rewarded for taking care of the needy?

- 5) Paul says that if we give away everything, but have not love, we gain nothing. How does that enhance our understanding of what Jesus says about reward in Matthew 6:1-4?

- 6) Based on 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, action alone does not constitute love. We can speak in tongues, prophecy, use our gifts, give away our wealth, even suffer for Christ, but without love, its all meaningless. Based on this, how would you define love?

- 7) Love is a key part of rich spiritual worship. To worship, we must truly love God and love others. Take this time to examine your own life and see if it lines up with the definition you gave for question 6. Ask God

to grow you in love and share where you feel He is calling you to grow with your group. Ask them to keep you accountable in this practice.