

## Agape Motivation

I Corinthians 13

### Introduction

- A. What motivates a person to do something? F\_\_\_\_\_, m\_\_\_\_\_, p\_\_\_\_\_, etc.
- B. In today's lesson we will see that l\_\_\_\_\_ is to be our motivation in our actions toward one another
1. The word is agape, and refers to an unselfish act done for the g\_\_\_\_\_ of another.
  2. We will apply this lesson to relationships within the church and within one's earthly family.

### A Modern Scenerio of agape love (1-3)

- A. All spiritual gifts are designed to bring g\_\_\_\_\_ to God
1. If my motivation to speak in tongues is not agape love, then I am just making n\_\_\_\_\_
  2. If my motivation to prophecy, to give a word of knowledge, or to exercise a spectacular faith is not agape love, then I am n\_\_\_\_\_
  3. If my motivation to give of my possessions or even to die is not agape love but to b\_\_\_\_\_ myself, it will never benefit me.
- B. Try coming up with a modern scenario
1. If I exhort (say positive words) to every one each Sunday, but do not do it with unselfish love, then I nullify my words.
  2. If I discipline my kids and correct their wrongs every time, but do it without agape love, I am but a stinging belt and a negative person.
- C. Agape love puts a stamp of g\_\_\_\_\_ on all that we do because I am not doing anything for myself but for the good of others.

### A Painted Picture (4-8a)

- A. The Greek text does not paint a picture of love with adjectives like many translations use, but with a\_\_\_\_\_ (verbs).
1. Suffers long or e\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Shows m\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Does not e\_\_\_\_\_
  4. Does not b\_\_\_\_\_ and does not p\_\_\_\_\_ itself up.
  5. Does not expose others to s\_\_\_\_\_ (the noun form of this word in the Greek text refers to the private parts of a body).
  6. Does not s\_\_\_\_\_ its own
  7. Is not p\_\_\_\_\_.
  8. Does not keep a r\_\_\_\_\_ of wrongs (see Matt 18:21,22)

9. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness but with the t\_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The finishing touches of the picture is given in verse 7
  1. Compare translations
    - a. Literal translations – *bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things.*
    - b. Free translations – *it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*
  2. Problems
    - a. Is it love for a woman to put up with being battered?
    - b. Is it love to believe everything?
    - c. Is it love to hope for the best?
  3. Another possible translation – *in reference to all things or circumstances*
    - a. The first action in verse 7 literally refers to building a roof – in all circumstances, love comes out on t\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. The second action in verse 7 has the implied object of God – in all circumstances, love keeps on t\_\_\_\_\_ God.
    - c. The third action in verse 7 is not talking about hope in the sense of a w\_\_\_\_\_, but has its object as God and the coming of Christ (see 1 Tim 6:17; Titus 2:13), which is a certainty – in all circumstances, love keeps hoping in God and his salvation work.
    - d. The final action in verse 7 is a picture of someone that never gives up – in all circumstances, love keeps e\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The title of the painting is given in verse 8a – L\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Our time on earth is limited (8b-13)**

- A. Spiritual gifts will cease when the p\_\_\_\_\_ comes
  1. Some interpret this to be the completion of the B\_\_\_\_\_ and use it to argue that the spectacular gifts have ceased.
  2. Paul is referring to the completion of Christ's work when He r\_\_\_\_\_ and puts an end to imperfection (see Eph 4:11-13; I Jn 3:2)
  3. Spiritual gifts were given because of s\_\_\_\_\_ - if there were no sin, there would be no need for encouragement or tongues!
- B. Earthly relationships will cease
  1. There will be no husband and wife in the new heaven and earth
  2. There will be no parents & children in the new heaven and earth
- C. But love will r\_\_\_\_\_
  1. So love unselfishly one a\_\_\_\_\_ in the body of Christ
  2. And love unselfishly those in your earthly f\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Unselfish love is the g\_\_\_\_\_ action you can do.