

LOVE AND POWER IN THE NAME OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

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November 15, 2020

Power is empty without love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

What is Love?

- *Eros*: sexual “love.”
- *Storge*: familial love.
- *Phileo*: love between friends.
- *Agape*: self-sacrificial love.

“ἀγάπη dominates all discussions of personal relationships, whether between God and mankind or between persons in whatever circumstance (ἔρωσ and στοργή do not appear at all).”¹

- The Old Testament Law is summed up in the word: Love.

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Romans 13:8-10

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

- Love is not condoning what God has called us to forsake.
- Love is far more than emotion.

Flashy things that are empty without love

- Masterful communication skills – 13:1 *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*
- Powerful gifting – 13:2 *And if I have prophetic powers, and understand **all** mysteries and **all** knowledge, and if I have **all** faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*
- Radical sacrifice – 13:3 *If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

¹ R. N. Longenecker, *Galatians*, vol. 41 (Dallas: Word, 1990), 260.