
A Culture Of Confusion: A Study In 1 Corinthians

“The More Excellent Way ”

11-10-24

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

Introduction: As we come to 1 Corinthians 13 this morning, Paul is in the midst of his focus on spiritual gifts (Ch. 12-14).

1. Spiritual gifts were confused and abused in Corinth, and that confusion remains true today.
2. So far, he has explained:
 - Every believer is spiritually gifted.
 - The gifts enable the body of Christ to function.
 - The Holy Spirit is the source of these gifts.
 - There is great variety in spiritual giftedness.
3. As he closed chapter 12, he challenged the Corinthians to desire the greatest gifts and added he would show them a more excellent way.
4. That way is love! Love is one of the defining characteristics of God and His children.
5. Without love, the exercise of our gifts, the ministry we engage in is an empty exercise.
6. Love makes the exercise of our gifts in ministry spiritually powerful.

I. The Priority Of Love

- A. Love - A Prerequisite For Ministry

- B. Love - The Catalyst For Ministry

II. The Practice Of Love

- A. Toward Others

- B. Toward Sin

- C. Toward Circumstances

Conclusion: Paul closes with a simple but powerful statement: Love never fails.

1. Giftedness can fail, ministry can fail, people can fail, but not love; love never fails.
2. God is love.
3. Gifts are important, impressive, powerful only when exercised in Love!