

"Why Love?"

Prepared by Patrick J. Griffiths © - pastorpat@waukeshabile.org

July 24, 2005

"Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies." (1 Cor. 8:1)

Read 1 Cor. 8:1-13

Why love? Why does love build up and knowledge puff up? What is it about love that makes it so desirable? Of all the virtues or attributes or characteristics available to the writers, love was chosen. Why love?

Let us consider several passages of Scripture that might assist us in answering this question. In so doing we will hopefully walk away seeing its fundamental nature and why love edifies.

First, love is the premiere Christian virtue (Jn. 13:34, 35, See also 1 Jn. 3:11, 23, 4:21).

³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ **By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**" (John 13:34, 35).

To love others as Christ loved us is unearthly. Christians are called upon to bless those who revile them, when persecuted they are to endure, when they are slandered they are to try and conciliate (1 Cor. 4:12, 13). They are not to curse their antagonists, but rather feed them when they are hungry and give them drink when they are thirsty (Rom. 12:14, 20). Instead of returning evil for evil, Christians are to extend a blessing (1 Pet. 3:8, 9). Such actions on our part toward those who would harm us are illogical, unreasonable, bizarre, and ultimately Christ-like.

Second, love covers a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8).

⁷ "The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. ⁸ Above all, **keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins**" (1 Pet. 4:8).

For relationships to exist, love must prevail. Love enables the one loving to redemptively interact with those who would sin, fail, disappoint, and frustrate. Love does not quit a relationship simply because the one loved failed to meet real or imaginary expectations.

Love does not dismiss sin. Just the opposite is true. Love sensitizes the lover towards sin. Love does not turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to sin's reality. Love seeks rescue, restoration and deliverance. Love reaches out toward the faltering and down toward the fallen. This is why love edifies.

Continued on the other side...

Third, the greatest of all Christian virtues is love (1 Cor. 13:13).

“But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:13).

In this present world, faith, hope, and love are crucial elements in the survival kit of any and all believers. Of these three only one will reach beyond the grave and into eternity and it is love.

Earlier in the chapter (1 Cor. 13), Paul endeavored to show why love is so beautiful. In its absence nothing matters. No degree of sacrifice on our part can replace love’s simplicity. In its presence every routine act is turned into something honorable and every mundane expression becomes respectable.

Why love, because love best portrays Christ. In all of this discussion, nothing is said of righteousness, holiness, or any number of enviable traits. If this is true, then love should never be sitting on the proverbial back burner. Christians are to lead with love. Love is always appropriate, always timely, always appreciated, and always right. No one has ever been too loving or too loved. Love can never be excessive or over used. And in this fellowship among His people love wins. The vision statement of WBC begins with this simple sentence "The Waukesha community will know us as people who have a deep love for Christ". May God make this a reality at WBC.