

# The Greatest of All

1 Corinthians 13

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# Main Point

In Christ's economy, love takes you from good to great.



1. Priority of Love: Love doesn't just matter, it matters most.



# 1 Corinthians 13

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or clanging cymbal.*



2. Practice of Love: Love chooses how to act and not act when responding to emotional hurt, diversity and disappointment.



- Eros
- Phileo
- Agapao



# 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

*<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the*



# 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

*truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts,  
always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup>Love  
never fails.*





3. Permanence of Love: Love is the ultimate reality both now and in the age to come.



# 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

*<sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when*



# 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

*perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.*

*<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.*

*When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>2</sup>Now we see but a poor*



# 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

*reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

*<sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*



## 4. The Greatest Kind of Love Is ...

### A. Universal

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... if you love only those who love you, what reward will you get?” -- Matthew 5



## 4. The Greatest Kind of Love Is ...

A. Universal

B. Tied to Jesus

“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” -- Jesus as quoted in John 13:34



## 4. The Greatest Kind of Love Is ...

- A. Universal
- B. Tied to Jesus
- C. Not a hobby



## 4. The Greatest Kind of Love Is ...

- A. Universal
- B. Tied to Jesus
- C. Not a hobby
- D. Realistic, not dreamy





# Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest, and sacrificial.



# Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The bright day of Christian community dawns wherever the early morning mists of dreamy visions are lifting.'

Christian community is not an ideal we have to realize, but rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate."

