

Love Never Quits

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 13:8-13.
- B. True love is to put another's needs and fulfillment above one's own.
- C. Love is the manifestation of maturity. (Ephesians 4:15)

II. Love never fails.

- A. This means that love never ends—the more you give away, the more there is.
- B. Paul contrasts love with things that do pass away such as prophesying.
 - 1. Prophesying is unveiling the gifts of God.
 - 2. When a believer's attention is seized the need for prophesy ceases.
 - 3. Knowledge gradually gives way to "the perfect," which refers to love.
 - 4. The gifts are not the important thing—gifts are designed to lead us to love.
 - 5. Resurrection power is the power to love as God loves.
- C. Gifts are good, but they are passing away—love should be broadcast.

III. Paul looks forward to the day when we can see the character of Jesus perfectly.

IV. Faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest is love.

- A. Faith abides because it is a God given provision—there is no ability to function without it.
- B. Hope abides because it is the expectation of more yet to come.
- C. Love is the greatest because God is love.
 - 1. To learn to love is to achieve the absolute value of the universe—to become like God.
 - 2. When we see Him we will see Him as He really is, for we will be like Him.

Application questions:

- 1. Why is love superior to the gifts of the Spirit?

2. Why will be able to see God as He really is in the final day?

3. How do you find it challenging to love people? What can you do to challenge yourself in this way this week?
