

First Corinthians 13:1-7

**The necessity of love—13:1-3**

- 1) <sup>1</sup> *If* [3<sup>rd</sup> class condition, potential] *I speak in the language of people and of angels*,
  - Paul moves from the actual to the hypothetical
  - a) Negative—*but have not love*,
  - b) Result—*I have become a noisy bronze or a clanging cymbal*.
- 2) <sup>2</sup> *And if* [3<sup>rd</sup> class condition] *I have prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge* (cf. 1:5), *and if* [3<sup>rd</sup> class condition] *I have all faith so that I can remove mountains*,
  - Paul again moves from the actual to the hypothetical
  - a) Negative—*but do not have love*,
  - b) Result—*I am nothing*.
- 3) <sup>3</sup> *And if* [3<sup>rd</sup> class condition] *I dispense everything I own, and if* [3<sup>rd</sup> class condition] *I hand over my body to be burned* (martyrdom),
  - a) Negative—*but do not have love*,
  - b) Result—*it benefits me nothing*.

**The expressions of love—13:4-7** (c.f. the fruit of the Spirit, life of Christ)

- NB these are verbs, not adjectives
- 1) Positive (both used of God in Romans 2:4)
    - a) <sup>4</sup> *Love* [# 26] *is patient* [*makrothumeo* # 3114],—dealing with difficult people and not retaliating
    - b) *beneficial* [*chresteuomai* # 5541];—unselfish goodness in action
  - 2) Negative
    - a) In relationship to self
      - i) *love is not jealous* [*zeloo* # 2206];—the opposite of rivalry and competition
      - ii) *love does not brag* [*perpereuomai* # 4068],—an ostentatious windbag focused on self
      - iii) *is not conceited* [*phusioo* # 5448];—inflated with self (cf. 8:1)
      - iv) <sup>5</sup> *does not act improperly* [*aschemoneo* # 807];—avoids all inappropriate behavior
      - v) *it is not self-seeking* [*zeteo heautou* # 2212 + 1438],—self-interest, self-centeredness (cf. Romans 15:3)
    - b) In relationship to others
      - i) *is not irritable* [*paroxuno* # 3947],—cantankerous, does not take offense
      - ii) *does not keep a record of wrong* [*logizomai kakos* # 3049 + 2556];—does not register evil
      - iii) <sup>6</sup> *does not rejoice about unrighteousness* [*chairo epi adikia* # 5463 + 1909 + 93],—
  - 3) Positive
    - a) In relationship to others—*but rejoices with the truth* [*sugchairo aletheia* # 4796 + 225];—never deceitful
    - b) In relationship to events (cf. John 13:1)
      - i) Present—<sup>7</sup> *bears all things* [*stego* # 4722],—puts up with
      - ii) Future—*trusts all things* [*pisteuo* # 4100],—never ceases to trust God
      - iii) Future—*hopes all things* [*elpizo* # 1679],—never loses hope in God's promises
      - iv) Present—*endures all things* [*hupomeno* # 5278].—tenacity in unpleasant events