

1 Corinthians 13 & 14

In addressing the division that arose out of the improper use of gifts (tongues, in particular), Paul urged them to **pursue love** as the **higher virtue & desire gifts** that will **greatly benefit the church** (& unbelievers), promoting edification, consideration & orderliness

1. Paul reiterates how one's ability (& even charity & sacrificial acts), if not accompanied with love, render him & what he does useless (13:1-3)

Guide

*If I speak in the **tongues of men & of angels**...And if I have **prophetic powers**, & understand all mysteries & **all knowledge**...but **have not love**, **I am nothing**. If I **give away all I have**, & if I **deliver up my body** to be burned, but **have not love**, **I gain nothing**. (v.1-3)*

Ch 6

Q3

2. Love is not self-directed; what is loving always goes with what is right & true (13:4-7)

***Love** is patient & kind...It **does not insist on its own way**...it does **not rejoice at wrongdoing**, but **rejoices with the truth**. (v.4-6)*

Q2

3. Love, unlike knowledge, prophecy or tongues which would cease after serving its purpose, is never-ending; it supersedes faith & hope (13:8-13)

***Love never ends**. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (13:8)
So now **faith, hope, & love** abide, these three; but the **greatest of these is love**. (13:13)*

Q4

(Apply)
Q5-6

4. Paul appeals to them to pursue love & desire gifts (in particular, prophecy over tongues) to build up the church, & not just themselves (14:1-5)

***Pursue love**, & earnestly **desire** the **spiritual gifts**, especially that you may prophesy...the one who prophesies **builds up the church**...The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues (14:1, 4-5)*

Q7

5. With specific reference to tongues,

a. if it is unintelligible, it is neither meaningful nor useful to build up the church (14:6-19)

*if I come to you speaking in tongues, **how will I benefit you** unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? Nevertheless, in church I would **rather speak five words with my mind** in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. (14:6, 19)*

b. it is a sign for the unbelievers; nevertheless, it still needs to be understandable for them to respond (14:20-25)

*Thus tongues are a **sign...for unbelievers**...If, therefore, the whole church comes together & all speak in tongues, & outsiders or **unbelievers** enter, will they not say that **you are out of your minds**? (14:22-23)*

6. Paul emphasized the importance of the building up of the church when they come together; which is achieved when they seek to promote good understanding, judgment, accountability, decorum & orderliness (14:26-40)

Q8-9

*For **God** is not a God of confusion but **of peace**.
But all things should be **done decently & in order**. (14:33, 40)*

(Apply)
Q10-11