

Today, we'd like to see the title of "The Way of Love" in the book of 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 3, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing," why does it profit me nothing?
Q2. From verses 4 to 8 the first part, replace the "love" word with "your own name," and meditate them. What'd be your response? And replace the "love" word with Jesus, and meditate them. What'd be your response?
Q3. In verse 11, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things," what does it mean?

(Background)

In the last time, we saw in Chapter 12, diversities of gifts to edify a church in the body of Christ:

(1 Corinthians 12:8-10) "for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues."

(1 Corinthians 12:28), "And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations [governments], varieties of tongues."

(Romans 12:6-8) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

(1 Cor 12:4-6, 27) There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries [administrations], but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities [operations], but it is the same God who works all in all. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

In 1 Corinthians 12:29-31, *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?* ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. (the best gifts are

whatever God give you and you gladly accept and are to build up the body of Christ the church.)

Agape love is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, in Gal 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Agape (the Greek noun form) is a divine love or unconditional love. Agape love is characterized as “joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control,” as well as the characteristics in this chapter 13.

There are 4 types of love in the Greek. Agape is a divine love or unconditional love. Eros is love conditioned upon opposite genders’ relationship. Philia is love conditioned upon brothers’ or friends’ relationship. And Storge is love conditioned upon parents-children’s biological relationship. Those human notions of love – if a condition is not satisfied – a person would easily fall into selfishness.

In King James version, Agape the Greek word was translated as Charity, which the word has changed through years in its usage and in its meaning as giving away to the needy people. charity has the idea of sympathy.

And thus because of the change of the usage & meaning, it is no longer a good word for translation

(Text)

<p>¹Though I speak with <u>the tongues</u> of men and of angels, but have <u>not love</u>, I have <u>become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal</u>.</p>	<p>1= tongues (not speak to men but to God, GLOSSA; not understandable language to us; this gift is beneficial to personal spiritual life ¹ 1 Cor 14:2; Acts 2:1-13 – speaking in tongues, each audience understood in each dialects); not love... become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal (those gift of tongues to build up a church in the body of Christ not by Agape love would be useless like sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. In other words, it is useless noise.)</p>
<p>²And though I have <u>the gift of prophecy</u>, and <u>understand all mysteries and all knowledge</u>, and though I have <u>all faith</u>, so that I could <u>remove mountains</u>, but have <u>not love</u>, <u>I am nothing</u>.</p>	<p>2=though I have the gift of prophecy(although I deliver God's word in either the future or the applicable things); understand all mysteries (the word of wisdom) and all knowledge (the word of knowledge); all faith... remove mountains; not love, I am nothing (the gifts would not edify a church in the body of Christ without love)</p>
<p>³And though I bestow <u>all my goods to feed the poor</u>, and <u>though I give my body to be burned</u>, <u>but have not love</u>, it profits me nothing.</p>	<p>3=Q1 all my goods to feed the poor (today usage and meaning of charity); though I give my body to be burned (though I am martyred by fire); ... not love, it profits me nothing (if I curse all persecutors, I would not be witness to Christ, and so the martyrdom is meaningless to build up the body of Christ)</p>

¹ 1 Cor 14:2"For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries,"

<p>⁴ Love <u>suffers long and is kind</u>; love does <u>not envy</u>; love does <u>not parade itself, is not puffed up</u>;</p> <p>⁵ does <u>not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil</u>;</p> <p>⁶ does <u>not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth</u>;</p> <p>⁷ <u>bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things</u>.</p> <p>⁸ Love never fails. But whether <u>there are prophecies, they will fail</u>; whether <u>there are tongues, they will cease</u>; whether <u>there is knowledge, it will vanish away</u>.</p>	<p>(4-8a =Q2 self examination)</p> <p>4= suffers long (suffers not short but long; a matter of forgiving spirit ² <i>Mat 18:21-22</i>); is kind (also kindness is a character of love); not envy (not jealous); not parade itself (not show up, vaunt, flaunt, or brag); not puffed up (not be arrogant)</p> <p>5= not behave rudely (not weirdly, but gently) ; not seek its own (not insist "my way,") not provoked (not mad; not take vengeance); think no evil (no thought of theft, adultery, sneaky way, looking for hidden motives – I trust you who say what you mean)</p> <p>6= not rejoice in iniquity (in dirty, filthy things, "earthly, sensual, devilish" ³ <i>James 3:14-15</i>); in the truth (Jesus Himself or the Word of God);</p> <p>7= bears all things... believes... hopes... endures (In the truth for Christ's sake)</p> <p>8= Love never fails (not temporary but eternal; all spiritual gifts are temporal to edify the body of Christ the Church on earth; Through SELF EXAMINATION, like ⁴ <i>2 Cor 13:5</i>, by meditation of Agape LOVE replaced with our own name & Jesus, we can know where to be sanctified in particular toward Christ); But <i>there are prophecies, they will fail; tongues..cease; knowledge..vanish away</i> (here are those things of the gifts, that are not lasting. They are for us now. We need them now on earth to build up a church in the body of Christ. They are important to us now; but these gifts will one day pass away because we will no longer need them. In other words, the day will come when we no longer need such gifts; So, In eternity, we will be made perfect and complete and will be in the very presence of God. We will no longer need the spiritual gifts, so they will come to an end.)</p>
---	---

² *Mat 18:21-22* Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

³ *James 3:14-15* But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

⁴ *2 Cor 13:5* Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified." (self examination for salvation)

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

9= in part... in part (Now the contrast is between in part and the perfect or complete one).

10= that which is perfect has come (Obviously this is a reference to the coming again of Jesus Christ. In NT time, Joel prophesied God's pouring out the Holy Spirit on people in ⁵ Joel 2:28-32; we need the spiritual gifts during our pilgrimage on earth, until we enter into the presence and the glory of the Lord); then that which is in part will be done away (When Jesus Christ comes again, these things which are in part will be gone away.)

11=Q3 When I was a child (We still are in that spiritual infancy state) I spoke as a child; I understood as a child; thought as a child (I speak as a child with incomplete understanding & thought; One day I'll have a complete understanding & thought when I am with the Lord); but when I became a man (when I become mature), I put away childish things (I throw away childish things, spiritual infancy, incomplete things or partial things.)

12= in a mirror, dimly (the truths are obscure, not fully, completely, or perfectly seen; Nevertheless Peter exhorts us to keep a hope that is filled with joy ⁶ 1 Peter 1:8); but then face to face. Now I know in part (know in part, we prophesy in part, but the day is coming when we see our Lord face to face and all of the mysteries will be removed, that which is perfect has come); shall know just as I also am known (I'll know all)

13= faith (Our faith in God, that abides now. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Our faith in the Word of God, our faith in the promises of God, our faith in the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ, that abides now); hope (In our heart, the hope of the heavenly kingdom, the hope of eternal life with our Lord, that abides now); love (The agape, this love of God shed abroad in our hearts through Jesus Christ. This love, it abides. It's eternal.); the greatest of these is love

⁵ Joel 2:28-32 And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. ³⁰ And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ³² And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls,"

⁶ 1 Peter 1:8 (Jesus) whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory."

	(the most important thing is love; so pursue it ⁷ 1 Cor 14:1)
--	--

All quotations are taken, except King James Version (KJV), from New King James Version (NKJV), ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© Copyright 2017 by Wayne Kim. All rights reserved. No part of this material may be reproduced in any forms or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher, except for brief quotations in critical articles or reviews.

⁷ 1 Cor 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy