

1 Cor. 12:31-14:1

Intro: (31)

- A. Strive for the greater gifts (31a)
- B. And I will show to you a far greater way (31b)

I. Spiritual things without love are nothing (1-3)

- A. Spiritual speech without love is worthless noise (1)
 - 1. If I have spiritual speech without love (1a-b)
 - a Pos: If I am speaking with the tongues of men and of angels (1a)
 - b Neg: But I do not have love (1b)
 - 2. I have become a noisy gong or a clashing cymbal (1c)
- B. Spiritual knowledge without love is nothing (2)
 - 1. If I have spiritual knowledge without love (2a-e)
 - a Pos: If I have supernatural knowledge and faith (2a-d)
 - 1) If I prophesy and know supernatural things (2a-b)
 - a) If I have prophesy (2a)
 - b) And I know all mysteries and all knowledge (2b)
 - 2) If I have faith to move mountains (2c-d)
 - a) And if I have all faith (2c)
 - b) So that to remove a mountain (2d)
 - b Neg: But I do not have love (2e)
 - 2. I am nothing (2f)
- C. Spiritual deeds without love benefits nothing (3)
 - 1. If I do spiritual deeds without love (3a-d)
 - a Pos: If I do praiseworthy deeds (3a-c)
 - 1) [if] I may give away all my possessions (3a)
 - 2) And if I give my life in a martyrdom worthy of boasting about (3b-c)
 - a) And I give my body (3b)
 - b) Purpose: so that I may boast (3c)
 - b Neg: But I do not have love (3d)
 - 2. I am benefitted nothing (3e)

II. The characteristic actions of love (4-7)

- A. What love does and does not do (4-5)
 - 1. Pos: What love does: (4a-b)
 - a Love forbears patiently (4a)
 - b Love acts kindly (4b)
 - 2. Neg: What love does not do: (4c-5d)
 - a It does not envy (4c)
 - b Love does not boast (4d)
 - c It is not puffed up [with pride/arrogance] (4e)

- d It does not behave indecently (5a)
- e It does not strive for its own things (5b)
- f It is not easily irritated/provoked (5c)
- g It does not keep a record of evil (5d)

B. What love delights in (6)

- 1. Neg: It does not rejoice in unrighteousness (6a)
- 2. Pos: but it rejoices along with the truth (6b)

C. How love reacts and plans (7)

- 1. It bears all things (7a)
- 2. It believes all things (7b)
- 3. It hopes all things (7c)
- 4. It endures all things (7d)

III. Love is greater than all other things (8-13)

A. Love is the greatest thing in this age, because it transcends this age (8-12)

- 1. Love won't fail, even when all other things fail (8-10)
 - a Love will not fail, even though spiritual gifts will fail (8)
 - 1) Pos: Love will never fail (8a)
 - 2) Neg; Spiritual gifts will fail (8b-g)
 - a) Prophecy is not permanent (8b-c)
 - (1) If there is prophecy (8b)
 - (2) It will be gotten rid of (8c)
 - b) Tongues are not permanent (8d-e)
 - (1) If there are tongues (8d)
 - (2) They will cease (8e)
 - c) Knowledge is not permanent (8f-g)
 - (1) If there is knowledge (8f)
 - (2) It will be gotten rid of (8g)
 - b Our present partial experience will fail (9-10)
 - 1) Neg: We know and prophecy in partial experience (9)
 - a) For we are knowing in part (9a)
 - b) And we are prophesying in part (9b)
 - 2) Pos: We will fully experience, and put the partial behind us (10)
 - a) But when that which is perfect/finished arrives (10a)
 - b) The partial experience will be gotten rid of (10b)
- 2. Our experience of the next age will be different from this age (11-12)
 - a Just like I have left behind childish things and now act like an adult (11)
 - 1) Neg: When I was a child, I spoke, thought and reasoned like a child (11a-g)
 - a) When I was a child (11a)
 - b) I spoke, thought, and reasoned as a child (11b-g)
 - (1) I spoke as a child (11b-c)

- (a) I spoke (11b)
 - (b) As a child [typically speaks] (11c)
 - (2) I thought/formed opinions as a child (11d-e)
 - (a) I thought/formed opinions (11d)
 - (b) As a child [typically forms opinions] (11e)
 - (3) I reasoned as a child (11f-g)
 - (a) I reasoned (11f)
 - (b) As a child [typically reasons] (11g)
- 2) Pos: When I became a man, I left behind childish ways (11h-i)
 - a) When I became a man (11h)
 - b) I got rid of the things of a child (11i)
- b We will leave behind this-worldly things and live in a heavenly manner (12)
 - 1) We now see indirectly, but will see directly (12a-b)
 - a) Neg: For now. we are seeing in a mirror, in an indirect manner (12a)
 - b) Pos: Then [we will see] face to face (12b)
 - 2) I know in part, but will know as I am known (12c-e)
 - a) Neg: Now I know in part (12c)
 - b) Pos: Then I will know as I am known (12d-e)
 - (1) Then I will know (12d)
 - (2) Just as I am known also (12e)
- B. Love is the greatest out of faith, hope, and love (13)
 - 1. Now faith, hope, love – these three things are remaining (13a)
 - 2. But love is the greatest of these (13b)

Application: (1)

- A. Pursue love (1a)
- B. And strive for the best spiritual gifts to exercise love (1b-d)
 - a. And strive for the spiritual gifts (1b)
 - b. Especially for prophesy (1c-d)
 - i. But rather [strive for] (1c)
 - ii. Purpose: so that you may prophesy (1d)