

## INTRODUCTION

- \* Living in a hedonistic, licentious society can have an affect upon the "set-apartness" of the individual believer and the gathering of believers.
- \* Last week, we began looking at how this set-apartness applies to our worship practices as well.
- \* We noted that Jesus stated, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and **those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth**." (John 4:23-24)
- \* In v. 1&2 we saw that the Basis of the Teaching on Spiritual Gifts was the Corinthians' Ignorance and Improper Spiritual Foundation. Their thinking was contaminated by false religious practices which they had been gullibly led into by demonic influences (cf. 10:20).
- \* Paul explained that every member of the body of Christ is bestowed with a gift (by the Spirit) which they are to minister (by the Son) in the activity assigned (by the Father) ... to benefit the whole body!
- \* The Corinthians had been focused on themselves and their glory. However, as their lives are to be lived to the glory of God, so their ministry is too.
- \* Paul now builds his case for the selfless exercise of these gifts by teaching them about the Superiority of Selfless Love.

## INSTRUCTION

### I. THE MANIFESTATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (12: 1-11)

### II. THE COOPERATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (12: 12-31)

### III. THE SUBJUGATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (12:31 - 13:13)

#### A. The P\_\_\_\_\_ of Selfless Love (v.1-3)

1. WITHOUT SELFLESS LOVE MY \_\_\_\_\_ ARE WORTHLESS - I \_\_\_\_\_ NOTHING
2. WITHOUT SELFLESS LOVE MY \_\_\_\_\_ ARE WORTHLESS - I \_\_\_\_\_ NOTHING
3. WITHOUT SELFLESS LOVE MY \_\_\_\_\_ ARE WORTHLESS - I \_\_\_\_\_ NOTHING

#### B. The P\_\_\_\_\_ of Selfless Love (v. 4-8a)

1. REVEALED IN ITS P\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. It is Long Burning (v. 4)
  - b. It is Kind (v. 4)
2. REVEALED IN ITS P\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. It Does Not Envy (v. 4)
  - d. It Does Not Behave Rudely (v. 5)
  - b. It Does Not Parade Itself (v. 4)
  - e. It Does Not Seek Its Own (v. 5)
  - c. It is Not Puffed Up (v. 4)
  - f. It is Not Provoked (v. 5)
  - g. It Does Not Inventory Evil (v. 5)
3. REVEALED IN ITS P\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. It Does Not Rejoice in Unrighteousness (v. 6)
  - b. It Does Rejoice in Truth (v. 5)
4. REVEALED IN ITS P\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. It Bears All Things (v. 7)
  - d. It Endures All Things (v. 7)
  - b. It Believes All Things (v. 7)
  - e. It Never Fails (v. 8)
  - c. It Hopes All Things (v. 7)

#### C. The P\_\_\_\_\_ of Selfless Love (v. 8b-13)

1. THE I\_\_\_\_\_ OF THAT WHICH IS PERFECT
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Matthew 5:48)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. James 1:25)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Hebrews 5:5-9; 7:28)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Heb 5:12-14 with 1 Cor 3:1; 1 Cor 14:20; Phil 3:15; Eph 4:11-13)
2. THE A\_\_\_\_\_ OF THAT WHICH IS PERFECT
  - a. The E\_\_\_\_\_ of Our G\_\_\_\_\_ is Incomplete (v. 8-9; cf. 1-3)
  - b. The E\_\_\_\_\_ of Our U\_\_\_\_\_ is Incomplete (v. 11-12)
    - i. AS AN INFANT
    - ii. AS A REFLECTION

### IV. THE DETERMINATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (14:1-25) ... April 8th

### V. THE ADMINISTRATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (14:26-40) ... April 15th

## **INTROSPECTION**

- \* FOR WHOM DO YOU USE YOUR TALENTS?
- \* OVERALL: IS YOUR LOVE SELFISH, OR SELFLESS?  
HOW DOES IT RATE COMPARED TO THIS LIST?
- \* WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF YOUR LIFE - YOUR PLEASURE OR THE GLORY OF GOD?
- \* BIBLICALLY SPEAKING, ARE YOU A BABE OR MATURE? WHERE SHOULD YOU BE?
- \* IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

## **INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion**

*It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.*

- \* How can we as a body seek to apply this passage to our assembly? How can we grow in selfless love for one another?
- \* Considering the characteristics of selfless love from this chapter, how does it apply to "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:11-16)?
- \* According to this passage and Hebrews 5:12-14, believers ought not to stagnating and remaining as immature, but seeking to continually grow and have as their goal to be "teachers." What are good ways for us, as a body, to facilitate these exhortations?