

"The Building Block of Charity"

II Peter 1:3-9

I Cor. 13:1-3

Open: *I Cor. 13:1-13*

- **Your life is incomplete without charity. vs. 1-3**
 - All the ability God has given you will be ineffective if it is not tempered by charity.
 - Talent does not dictate the ability to influence people; charity does. **ILL:** *Christ's ministry was the ultimate example because his passion for people too grow never overpowered the compassion he had for people.*
- The Bible definition of what charity is. **vs. 4-8**
 - Suffereth Long – Able to bare long the loss, injury, disadvantage, or distress caused by the actions of those people it loves.
 - Kind – Embodies a benevolent nature. Seeking to improve the quality of life for those around them.
 - Envieth Not – Does not feel discontent because of the success of those around them.
 - Vaunteth not itself – A public boasting of its abilities or accomplishments. Does not seek the accolades of those around them.
 - Is not puffed up – An internal view of that sees it's self as worthy and important. Seeing one's self in a stately splendor or as magnificent. Deserving of a Kingly treatment.
 - Doth not behave itself unseemly – Acts appropriate in all situations according to custom and culture. Knows how to act appropriately in any given situation.
 - Seeketh not her own – Does not go through life looking for opportunities to bring glory, honour, and recognition to ones self.
 - Is not easily provoked – Is not easily stirred up or aroused. Does not allow circumstances and other people to dictate responses.
 - Thinketh no evil – Does not think about things that are or would be harmful or detrimental to those around them (morally or physically).
 - Rejoices not in iniquity – Does not find joy, pleasure, or satisfaction in the breaking (transgression) of a law; does not find satisfaction in the fulfillment of sin.
 - Rejoices in truth – Receives pleasure when truth is lived, taught, and magnified in the lives of those around them.
 - Beareth all things – Charity is a support pillar for all people. It does not discriminate based on personality, social status, or commonality.
 - Believeth all things – Charity is not the acceptance of all things as good; but charity does expect the best out of all people (it does not spend its time looking for the weakness of others.)
 - Hopeth all things – Charity will continue to be there when it seems there is no possible chance for a positive outcome.

- Endureth all things – Charity will sustain, tolerate, and continue under all misjustice without injury, malice, or bitterness against the offender.
- Charity never faileth – Charity will never fall short of success or achievement . It will never lose strength or vigor, and it will never become weak or crumble. It will allways attain the desired goal.
- Your Christian life is only completed by Charity. vs. 9-13
 - Carnal abilities to understand spiritual matters are limited; but through spiritual avenues an individual can be complete, well rounded, balanced, and productive. vs. 9-11
 - The understading of charity will always seem to have an appearance of mystery; but when I choose to act on the knowledge I do have, then the reality of the truth will be as clear to me as the reality of my existence. vs. 12
 - Faith and hope will be taken to the next level when I choose to embody charity. **Charity is the most important element in the Christian life.** vs. 13

Tran:

- The result of embodying Biblical charity will result in a well-balanced and productive Christian.
- Christians and churches stop growing because they fail to grow to the point where they love like Christ loved.

I. The more complete your love is, the more complete your life will be.

- a. Love is a lifestyle not a list that's to be completed.
 - i. **John 15:13** *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*
 - ii. **I John 3:16-18** *“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. [17] But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? [18] My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”*
- b. Love can only be learned by following the example of Jesus Christ.
 - **John 15:9** *“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*
 - What example are we following?
 - What example are we setting for others to follow?
 - i. The Parable of the good Samaritan. **Lk. 10:29-37** *“...Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”*
 - ii. Through Christ’s example we can learn that love is not something that happens easily; it requires dedication and work. **I Thess. 1:3** *“Remembering **without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ...**”*

II. **The attitude of love is just as important as the action of love.**

- **Rom. 12:9** “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”
 - Dissimulation = To conceal ones true motives; to disguise.
- a. Humbly **Eph. 4:2** “*With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*”
 - Many peoples’ love is destroyed because they are performing the duties for personal profit rather than for the edification of others. **Prov. 16:18** “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*”
 - i. Vaunteth not itself
 - ii. Doth not behave itself unseemly
 - iii. Is not puffed up
 - iv. Seeketh not her own
 - **Rom. 12:16** “*...be not wise in your own conceit.*”
- b. To honor God **Mt. 5:16** “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*”
 - i. My love for others is not to be based on who they are or who I am; it is based on what God has done for me. **I John 4:10-11** “*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*”
 - ii. **My love for others is to be based on the same principle that Christ’s love for me was based.** “Christ’s love for me (demonstrated on Calvary) was to bring a restoration of relationship between God and His crowning creation (me).” **Eph. 4:32** “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.*”
 - iii. I am to love others the way God loves because it’s commanded, not because of how it makes me feel or to receive the accolades of man. I am to leave the rewarding to God. **Mt. 6:4,6,18** “*..thy Father which seeth the in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*”

Col. 3:14

“*And above all these things **put on charity**, which is the bond of perfectness.*”

“Review Questions”

1. Your life is incomplete without _____. **Charity.**
2. _____ is the most important element in the Christian life. **Charity.**
3. The more complete your love is, the more complete your _____ will be. **Life.**
4. The _____ of love is just as important as the action of love. **Attitude.**
5. My love for others is to be based on _____. **Christ’s love for me.**