

Love: The Most Important Choice

(1 Corinthians 13)

- I. The Necessity of Love (13:1-3)**
- II. The Actions of Love (13:4-7)**
- III. The Permanence of Love (13:8-13)**

A. Love is Superior to Gifts (13:8-12)

1. Sign Gifts are Temporal/Love is Eternal (13:8-10)

- a) Three periods of Israel's history of sign gifts
 - 1) Moses/Joshua (Exodus 4)
 - 2) Elijah/Elisha (1 Kings 17:24)
 - 3) Christ/Apostles (Mt 11:20, Acts 2:43)
- b) What about Mark 16:15-18?
 - 1) Signs were contemporary with the apostles
 - 2) All of these signs must accompany the preachers today
- c) Was not tongues the initial evidence of the baptism of the Spirit in Acts 2?
- d) Final word on doctrine is in the epistles (1 Cor 12:13, Rom 8:9)
- e) Love is eternal now

2. Sign Gifts are limited/ Love is Unlimited (13:11)

- a) Difference between a child's knowledge and an adult's
- b) Difference between a dim reflection and a clear reflection
- c) Love is unlimited now

B. Love is Superior to all Virtues (13:13)

1. God is Love (1 John 4:8)

2. Faith and Hope are part of the all encompassing love (13:7)