

WCBC WORSHIP SERVICE - MARCH 4 2018

TOPIC: BUILDING OURSELVES UP!

Sermon 6: *By Our Genuine, Christian Love!*

TEXT: I Corinthians 13:1-13; 8:1

INTRO: Three Words For "Love" In The Greek Language!

I. THE SUPREMACY OF "AGAPE" LOVE: vv.1-3

1. Love is contrasted with eloquence - v.1
 - The Ethnologue Catalogue Of The World
2. Love is contrasted with prophecy - v.2
3. Love is contrasted with understanding mysteries - v.2
4. Love is contrasted with knowledge - v.2
 - Ken Jennings!
5. Love is contrasted with faith - v.3
6. Love is contrasted with almsgiving - v.3
7. Love is contrasted with sacrifice & devotion-v.3

II. THE BUILDING POWER OF "AGAPE" LOVE:

vv.4-7

1. It gives patience and kindness - v.4a
 - Minnesota Wedding!
2. It causes one to not be envious - v.4

**Question To Ponder:* How do we react when other Christians receive blessings or benefits that we lack?
3. It humbles a person - v.4
 - Holy/Righteous Pride! - I Cor. 1:26-31
cf. John 15:5
4. It produces gentleness and selflessness - v.5
 - A. Gentleness ("*rude*") - Ephesians 4:2
 - B. Selflessness ("*self-seeking*") - I Cor. 10:24
5. It teaches us not to get easily angered or keep a record of wrongs - v.5
6. It creates hatred on sin, but gladness with the truth - v.6
7. It provides victory - v.7

Note: Agape love gives us triumph because *"it always*

protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres."

III. THE ETERNITY OF "AGAPE" LOVE: v.7

Prophecies shall be done away with, tongues shall cease, knowledge shall vanish away, etc., but God's love remains. It is eternal! No wonder then I Corinthians 14:1 instructs us to, "*Follow the way of love (i.e., agape love)..."*"

CONCLUSION: *Genuine, Christian love in a nutshell!*

The Fifth Sparrow!

A little Spanish boy in Vigo who became a devout Christian was asked by an Englishman what had been the influence under which he acted. "It was all because of the odd sparrow," the boy replied. "I do not understand," said the Englishman in surprise. "What odd sparrow?" "Well, Senor, it is this way," the boy said. "A gentleman gave me a Testament, and I read in one Gospel that two sparrows were sold for a farthing. And again in Luke, I saw, 'Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings...? And I said to myself that Nuestro Senor (our Lord) Jesus Christ knew well our custom of selling birds. As you now, Sir, we trap birds, and get one chico for two, but for two chicos we throw in an extra sparrow. That extra sparrow is only a make-weight, and no account at all. "Now, I think to myself that I am so insignificant, so poor, and so small that no one would think of counting me. I'm like the fifth sparrow. And yet, oh marvelous, Nuestro Senor says, 'Not one of them is forgotten before God.' I have never heard anything like it, Sir. No one but He could ever have thought of not forgetting me." - *King's Business*

Verse For Today

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life!" - John 3:16

Food For Thought

Karl Barth, famed theologian, was once asked, "What is the greatest thought you ever had?" His answer: "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." - Dale Galloway

