

Introduction – Her name was Mary Jane...

Love: The Ground of all the Gifts

1. Gifts are Great, but let's talk about "The Best Way to Live" (1 Corinthians 12:31b)

A Spiritual Gift Versus A Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-25)

2. The Futility of Gifts (and Abilities) without Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

- a. Tongues of Angels
- b. Prophecy
- c. Incredible Insight
- d. Mountain Moving Faith
- e. Give all possessions
- f. Die a Faithful, Martyr's Death

3. What love really is (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- a. patient
- b. kind
- c. not jealous
- d. not boastful
- e. not proud
- f. not rude
- g. not self-seeking
- h. not easily angered
- i. keeps no record of wrongs
- j. does not delight in evil
- k. rejoices with the truth
- l. always protect
- m. always trusts
- n. always hopes
- o. always perseveres
- p. never fails

4. The Permanence of Love (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)

Application – *Why is love the supreme quality in the life of the Christian?*

A look at a man transformed by love
Mark 3:17 -- Luke 9:52-55 -- John 13:23
John 3:16-18
John 13:1
John 13:34-35
John 15:9-17
1 John 4:7-11

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

^{31b}And now I will show you the most excellent way. ¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Galatians 5:19-25

¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.