

Kingdom Apostolic Ministries (K.A.M.)

K.A.M. Bible Readers' Club

(Learning Chapters in Context)



I Corinthians - Chapter 13

The Power of Love in Ministry!

Fridays - May 28 and June 4

7:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. E.S.T.

To enter the Zoom Video Classroom:

Meeting ID: 82457337688 / Passcode: 164793

(You may go to www.zoom.us and click on "Join", then type in the Meeting ID and passcode.)

Call-In Information:

(646) 558-8656 (New York) / (301) 715-8592 (Washington DC)

(312) 626-6799 (Chicago) / (253) 215-8782 (Tacoma)

(Dial one of the numbers closest to you.)

The Bible Readers' Club is an interactive Bible study. Members who join our video-conference are allowed to participate by taking turns reading from their supplied outline and scriptures. (Feel free to join us even if you choose not to participate in the reading.) We will be studying the context of one chapter from the Bible. Two group leaders will lead the study. They will assist the group by instructing, provoking thought, and asking questions to the club members.

This will be a great time for fun and fellowship, as well. Come be a part of the Bible Readers' Club and get acquainted with members from your KAM church! We will be studying from:

I Corinthians chapter 13

THE POWER OF LOVE IN MINISTRY

Group leaders:

Sis. Patrice Smith (Detroit Campus)

Elder Jeffrey Allen (Indianapolis Campus)

K.A.M. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Evangelist Barbara Williams

and Elder Mike Wilson

Elder Mike Wilson, Author

The Bible Readers' Club

(Learning Chapters in Context)

I Corinthians - Chapter 13 **Love in Ministry!**

Gifts Without Love

- vs. 1 Paul spoke to the Corinthian church about divisions in part of chapter 11. In chapter 12, he spoke about how a physical body cannot properly function without all its parts. In chapter 13, verse 1, he explains how a person can minister spiritual gifts and yet not have love.
- vs. 2 The gifts that God gives to us are effective in ministry, but without love, there is no spiritual benefit to the person who ministers. They don't understand the affect love plays in ministry. Without love in ministry we simply go through the motions.

(Group leader will lead the discussion)

Sacrifices Without Love

- vs. 3 There are so many ways people find fulfillment in ministry. They can also find unhealthy causes and reasons for being in ministry and ministering to others. According to this verse, love has to be our motivating factor, or we have really accomplished nothing. The apostle Paul reminds us that we can be in ministry and yet not love the people we minister to.

Love – As Defined by the Apostle Paul

- vs. 4 Love often puts up with others because we don't always know what a person is suffering (Eph. 4:2). Trying to understand someone may take years. We have to be trained to be kind to others. According to the Apostle Paul, love is displayed, not with envy...and it certainly does not constantly brag around others. This verse tells us a person who is proud cannot be loving.

(Group leader will lead the discussion)

What Love is Not

- vs. 5 The apostle Paul begins to define love by telling us when we see certain traits in ourselves and in others, we can measure if the love is genuine. Anyone who acts improperly or is rude is not loving. Anyone who is selfish is not loving. We should also allow for others' mistakes and not be critical of them. We must train ourselves not to suspect evil about others.
- vs. 6 People who love do not rejoice in any type of injustice. They also do not rejoice in other people's unfortunate situations (Prov. 17:5; 24:17-18; Job 12:5). Love focuses on the virtuous things of others and tries not to find fault with anyone. People who are loving always want truth to prevail.

(Group leader will lead the discussion)

All Things Relational

- vs. 7 God has always wanted people to have the proper relationships. This verse seems to focus on how we are to positively interact with one another. The apostle Paul reminds us that love first bears others' insults and injuries against us, believing that God is able to change us and them. A person who is loving has hope for positive outcomes in their relationships with others. Loving people try to understand the faults of others and deal with them accordingly. Dealing with one another takes endurance, often believing things will change. People who have love seek the best in others.

Ministry Gifts are "On Loan" and Are Not Forever

- vs. 8-10 Many members at Corinth abused the gifts God had given them. Paul warned them about their selfish use of speaking in tongues while in church services. He also told them that prophesying to others without loving them was basically just a selfish act. He said that the misuse of knowledge could lead to pride (I Cor. 8:1-2). These gifts of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge, as we know it, will not be needed one day. One day, all of our "works" will be tried with fire to see if they are genuine (I Cor. 3:10-15). Ministry gifts are not forever. On that day, the Lord will reveal all mysteries. All knowledge will be clearly made available and clearly understood! There will be no need for prophecies, tongues, and partial understanding. Chapter 13 deals with our ability to minister (prophecy, knowledge, and tongues) versus our ability to love. Anyone who loves in ministry brings another dimension to that ministry. Love is the greatest ability we have in ministry and only love will remain.

(Group leader will lead the discussion)

Children Have Limited Understanding

- vs. 11 Children have not been exposed to years of experiences in life. They grow in years and mature in age and knowledge. But we don't expect children to act mature and deal with the complexities of life. A child's world should consist of trains and dolls and playtime -- all the things that are on a child's level. Twenty-first century adults, on the other hand, take on great responsibilities -- family, careers, car notes, mortgages, difficulties with aging, and so many other challenges.

We Are Like Children

- vs. 12 Paul tells us that, in many ways, we are like children. With all we know, our knowledge about God is limited. We know only what God reveals to us. What we know about God is like looking through a dim mirror (which Paul calls a glass). So no one should claim an expertise or monopoly on ministry gifts because all knowledge is given to us by God. Paul reminds us again (from vs. 9-10) that what we know about God is partial (II Cor. 5:16). One day we will fully understand all things, including the magnitude of God's love for us.

(Group leader will lead the discussion)

What is the Greatest?

- vs. 13 It has been said that presently (on earth) abides faith, hope, and charity. Faith can move mountains and we need hope to look for a promising future. Both faith and hope have helped us many times to overcome what others have not been able to overcome. Yet we are told that genuine love for others is greater than any gift of faith or hope we claim to have. Love has a universal language and people recognize it when being ministered to. This verse can be interpreted to mean that faith and hope will not be needed one day but love in God's kingdom will prevail when we see Jesus!

(Group leader will lead the discussion)

Question for group discussion: "Try to define love in one word?"
