**LOOKING FOR LOVE**

**I Corinthians 13:1-8, 13**

[**1**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-1/)**Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.**

[**2**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-2/)**And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.**

[**3**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-3/)**And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.**

[**4**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-4/)**Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,**

[**5**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-5/)**Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;**

[**6**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-6/)**Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;**

[**7**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-7/)**Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**

[**8**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-8/)**Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.**

[**13**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-13/)**And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*Paul knew this truth. Everybody in the world is looking for love! Paul also knew without the love of God, his work for God would be worthless.**

**\*\*Without God’s love, the Message is Worthless, the Ministry is Worthless, the Marriage is Worthless, the Music is Worthless, and the Motives are Worthless.**

**1. Notice the Need for God’s Love**

 **a. It’s needed in our Culture**

 **b. It’s needed in our Country**

 **c. It’s needed in our Churches**

**2. Notice the Nature of God’s Love**

**\*\*When God’s love is in your life, you will get . . .**

 **a. A love for the Word of God**

 **b. A love for the Work of God**

 **c. A love for the Will of God**

**3. Notice the Necessity of God’s Love**

**\*\*Without God’s love we will lose . . .**

 **a. Family**

 **b. Friends**

 **c. Fellowship**

 **d. Faith**

**\*\*God’s love changes people from being hostile and hateful to being humble, helpful, and holy. God’s love is so needed!**

**\*\*God’s love will not allow you to insult people and inspire people at the same time!**

**\*\*God’s love will not allow you to crush people and cherish people at the same time!**

**\*\*God’s love will not allow you to beat people and bless people at the same time!**

**\*\*God’s love will not allow you to antagonize people and evangelize people at the same time!**

**\*\*God’s love will not allow you to go to church seeking for a fight or a fuss, and seek for a friend, a Father, and a faith all at the same time!**

**\*\*People are still Looking for Love, and God’s love is still the only love that satisfies!**

**I. PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR A PERFECT LOVE**

[**Colossians 3:14**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Colossians-3-14/)**- And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.**

**\*\*Perfect love is not something you fall in because that means it was an accident. However, perfect love is something you choose to put on everyday which means you do it on purpose.**

 **A. A Perfect Love is Preferred**

**I Corinthians 13:13** [**13**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-13/)**And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.**

**\*\*So many people are looking for that perfect love because they know deep inside themselves that it is the greatest love they could ever experience.**

**\*\*What they do not always realize is that it can only be obtained by having faith in Christ and hope in Christ because He is that perfect love.**

**\*\*Why do we long for and look for perfect love?**

 **1. Because the Perfect Love of God is Fearless**

[**1 John 4:18**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-John-4-18/)**- There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

 **2. Because the Perfect Love of God is Faithful**

**I Corinthians 13:8 [8](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-8/%22%20%5Co%20%22View%20more%20info%20for%201%20Corinthians%2013%3A8)Charity never faileth:**

**\*\*God’s love faithfully never fails! That is what makes it perfect, and that is why it is preferred.**

 **B. A Perfect Love is Pure**

**I John 1:8 says, “God is love.” I do not know anything more pure than God; therefore His perfect love is pure! \*\*God’s Perfect Love is Pure . . .**

 **1. Because it is the only Real Love.**

 **2. Because it is the only Righteous Love.**

**II. PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR A POWERFUL LOVE**

**Romans 8:38-39 38**[**For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-8-38/) **39**[**Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-8-39/)

**\*\*People are looking for a powerful love, and there’s not a more powerful love than the love of Jesus!**

 **A. How can this powerful love be Described?**

 **1. It is Unspeakable.**

 **2. It is Unending.**

[**Jeremiah 31:3**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Jeremiah-31-3/)**- The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:**

 **3. It is Unselfish.**

 **4. It is Unconditional.**

**Analogy: There’s an old saying that says, “You can’t sell it if you can’t tell it!” People want a powerful love, and we as Christians have it and should tell it! It is still free so tell it, and someone along the way will take it!**

 **B. How can this powerful love be Demonstrated?**

**\*\*We cannot just describe it; we must demonstrate it!**

 **1. Love the Blinded.**

**II Corinthians 4:3-4 [3](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Corinthians-4-3/%22%20%5Co%20%22View%20more%20info%20for%202%20Corinthians%204%3A3)But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:** [**4**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Corinthians-4-4/)**In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

 **2. Love the Brethren**

**I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.**

**III. PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR A PROVEN LOVE**

[**Romans 5:8**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-5-8/)**- But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

 **A. The Sacrifice Proves God’s Love**

**Romans 5:8c “Christ died for us.”**

 **1. Jesus died for the Fallen.**

 **2. Jesus died for the Friends.**

**John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

 **B. The Sympathy Proves God’s Love**

**Romans 5:8 while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

 **1. While we were Unlovable.**

**\*\*No one else loved us while we were yet sinners but Jesus because we were . . .**

 **a. Helpless**

 **b. Hateful**

 **c. Hopeless**

 **2. While we were Unforgivable.**

 **3. While we were Unbearable.**

 **4. While we were Undone.**

 **C. The Scripture Proves God’s Love**

 **1. God’s Love is Proven in the Report**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

**\*\*Thank God one night I received a report from heaven that God loved me enough to save me!**

 **2. God’s Love is Proven in the Record**

**\*\*His record proves that nothing can disconnect or detach us from the love of God!**

**CLOSE**

**1. So many people are looking for love and needing to be loved. Some have stopped believing that love is real because of terrible experiences and relationships.**

**2. However, LOVE IS REAL!**

**3. Do you believe God is real? Then love is real. Do you believe love is real? Then God is real. Why? Because God is love!**

**4. All the characteristics of real love are the same characteristics of the Lord. Let me prove it from our text.**

**II Corinthians 13:4-8**

[**4**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-4/)**The Lord suffereth long, *and* is kind; the Lord envieth not; the Lord vaunteth (flaunts or boasts) not Himself, is not puffed up,**

[**5**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-5/)**Doth not behave Himself unseemly, seeketh not His own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;**

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[**7**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-7/)**Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**

[**8**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-13-8/)**The Lord never faileth:**

**5. I can honestly say that I know love is real and God is real because I have felt them both deep in my soul!**

**\*\*Are you looking for love that is Perfect? Then come to the Lord! Are you looking for love that is Powerful? Then come to the Lord. Are you looking for love that is Proven? Then come to the Lord!**