

**HOLY MANY IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:  
A study in I and II Corinthians  
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014**

**The More Excellent Way  
I Corinthians 13:1-13  
January 9, 2014**

*Questions for Sandy? [amenquestions@2pc.org](mailto:amenquestions@2pc.org) Indicate if you prefer an off line response.*

**13:1-3 I. Godly love is our top priority.**

- :1 A. Above tongues-speaking  
*"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."*
- :2 B. Above miraculous powers  
*"And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."*
- :3 C. Above martyrdom  
*"If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."*

**:4-7 II. Godly love is deeply virtuous.**

- :4a A. Patient  
*"Love is patient."*
- :4b-5a B. Others-oriented  
*"...love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude."*
- :5b C. Self-denying  
*"It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;..."*
- :6 D. Righteous  
*"...it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth."*
- :7 E. Persevering  
*"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."*

**:8-13 III. Godly love endures forever.**

- "Love never ends."*
- :8 A. It outlasts spiritual gifts.  
*"As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away."*
- :9-12 B. It eventually displaces spiritual gifts.  
*"For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."*
- :13 C. It supersedes all other virtues.  
*"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three: but the greatest of these is love."*