



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Restoration Series “His Love in Serving”

DATE: March 8, 2020

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Romans 5:5, Galatians 5:22, 6:3, Ephesians 5:25-27, 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Matthew 5:46, Jeremiah 17:9, 1 John 2:9, 4:20, Genesis 6:5, Psalm 51:5, John 3:6, 1 Peter 2:1-5, Hebrews 5:12-13

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13]

1 *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 *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 *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 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant*

5 *or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;*

6 *it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

7 *Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

8 *Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.*

9 *For we know in part and we prophesy in part,*

10 *but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.*

11 *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.*

12 *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 *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

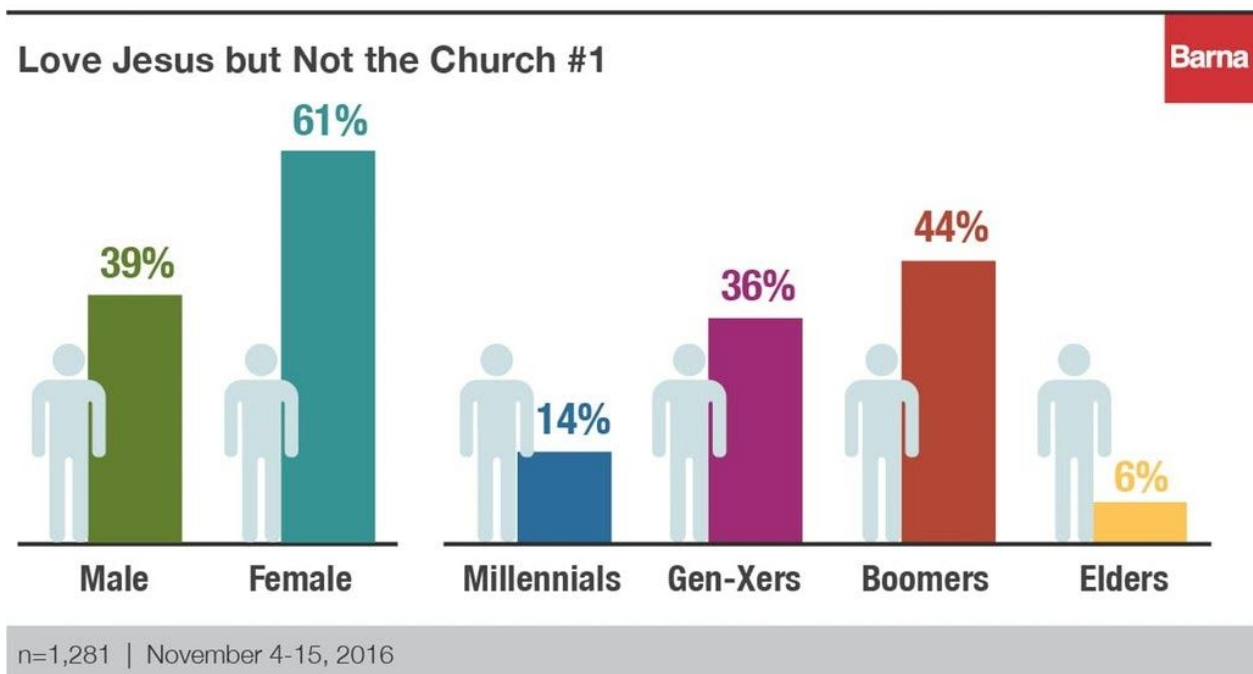
The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 13:1–13.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

(There is a growing group of people who claim to Love God but not His church)

MEDITATION POINT: *Who are these people and does Biblical love require a love for His body?*

(The Make-up of this group)



Orthodox Belief Despite Church Absence

Despite leaving the church, this group has maintained a robustly orthodox view of God. In every case, their beliefs about God are more orthodox than the general population, even rivaling their church-going counterparts. For instance, they strongly believe there is only one God (93% compared to U.S. adults: 59% and practicing Christians: 90%); affirm that “God is the all-powerful, all-knowing, perfect creator of the universe who rules the world today” (94% compared to U.S. adults: 57% and practicing Christians: 85%); and strongly agree that God is everywhere (95% compared to U.S. adults: 65% and practicing Christians: 92%).

About the Barna Research

Interviews with U.S. adults included 1,281 web-based surveys conducted among a representative sample of adults over the age of 18 in each of the 50 United States. The survey was conducted November 4-15, 2016. The sampling error for this study is plus or minus 2.9 percentage points, at the 95% confidence level. Minimal statistical weighting was used to calibrate the sample to known population percentages in relation to demographic variables.

- **Millennials:** Born between 1984 and 2002
- **Gen-Xers:** Born between 1965 and 1983
- **Boomers:** Born between 1946 and 1964
- **Elders:** Born between 1945 or earlier

Practicing Christian: Those who attend a religious service at least once a month, who say their faith is very important in their lives and self-identify as a Christian.

[Envy] is the peculiar fault of the Devil, since it was envy that brought about his fall and it was his envy that caused man’s fall

Matthew W. Dickie, “Envy,” ed. David Noel Freedman, *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (New York: Doubleday, 1992), 528.

OUTLINE:

I. (v1-3) THE GREATNESS AND INDISPENSABILITY OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

The Holy Spirit in us is God's Love at work. We gain the Holy Spirit at the point of Salvation and He Spiritually baptizes us into the family of God. His love towards us is based on His perfect love for His Son Jesus and affects everything in our lives. If we do not have love we do not have the Holy Spirit and if we do not have the Holy Spirit we do not have a relationship with Jesus...

- (v1) Love that is anchored in Christ is not just "a **noisy gong and a clanging cymbal**"
 - = **All Show**
- (v2) Love that is anchored in Christ is not just in actions, knowledge, or even perceived faith by in a personal love for Jesus given to you at conversion
 - Without genuine God given love (at the point of Salvation)
 - = **We are "nothing" /worthless** (to the kingdom of God)
 - Jeremiah 17:9, 1 John 2:9, 4:20, Genesis 6:5, Psalm 51:5
- (v3) Love that is anchored Sacrifices because of Jesus's love in us not in an ascetic manner (depriving ourselves to be seen or gain)
 - "**I gain nothing**"= our fleshly love gains us nothing from God or lasting from man

II. (v 4-7) AUTHENTICITY OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

- (v4) LOVE IS PATIENT
 - *Biblical Love is Steadfast through the trials, pain, and struggles of life and in spite of our flesh and the adversary*
- (v4) LOVE IS KIND
 - *Biblical love is Sympathetic to our brothers and sisters in Christ*
 - *Biblical love is Gentle and agreeable*
- (v4) LOVE DOES NOT ENVY
 - *Biblical Love isn't suspicious or jealous of others*
- (v4) LOVE DOES NOT BOAST
 - *Biblical Love doesn't say look at me with the things we say and do*
- (v4) LOVE IS NOT ARROGANT
 - *Biblical Love is not overbearing in dealing with others even if we think we are right*

- (v5) LOVE IS NOT RUDE
 - *Biblical Love causes us to act in ways that glorify God no matter where we are*
- (v5) LOVE DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY
 - *Biblical Love does not seek to fulfill our own desires*
- (v5) LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE
 - *Biblical Love is not easily provoked to anger*
- (v5) LOVE IS NOT RESENTFUL
 - *Biblical Love is focused on forgiveness*
- (v6) LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE IN WRONGDOING
 - *Biblical Love mourns Sin (makes us sick)*
 - *Our own lives*
 - *In the world*
 - *In the church*
- (v6) LOVE DOES REJOICE WITH TRUTH
 - *Biblical Love rejoices when truth is revealed in lives*
- (v7) LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS
 - *Biblical Love is tolerant and has an eternal perspective*
- (v7) LOVE BELIEVES ALL THINGS
 - *Biblical Love does not judge the motives of others as only God knows the heart*
- (v7) LOVE HOPES ALL THINGS
 - *Biblical Love expects God's will to be done/ His plan to be fulfilled*
- (v7) LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS
 - *Biblical Love endures when suffering occurs*
 - *Sickness*
 - *Physical roadblocks*
 - *Persecution because of your faith*
- (v8) BIBLICAL LOVE NEVER ENDS
 - *Biblical Love is eternal and has no end*
 - *This quality will remain in heaven when many of the Gifts will cease and are meant for earth only*

III. (v8-13) PERMANENCE OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Not only is God's love all of these things in quality, but God's love is eternal in quantity.

- (v8-9) Many of the gifts of the Spirit will end as the capacities they served will be accomplished

- (v10, 13) “faith, hope, and Love” will all remain through all eternity
 - *Romans 8:24-25*

- (v10) “when the perfect comes”= When Jesus comes again (second coming) there will no longer be a need for some of these gifts because: (Prophecy, Tongues, & Knowledge)
 - *The followers of Christ will be **with Him***
 - *Knowledge will be complete*
 - *The prophecy will be fulfilled*
 - *We will all speak and understand in heaven*
 - *The purpose of these gifts will be complete at His final revelation*
 - ***The Judgement** of believers and unbelievers will occur following*
 - *The will be a transition into an eternal and sinless state will begin*

- (v11) “when I became a man, I gave up childish ways”
 - *Paul was saying to put away the Gnosis= (knowledge of one’s origins)*
 - *Gnosis= **Revealed knowledge** as the basis for salvation*
 - *Paul was advocating that as we **grow up in the Lord** we do not need to see to believe, but rather we believe because Love has been poured into our hearts*
 - *John 3:6, 1 Peter 2:1-5, Hebrews 5:12-13*
 - *The Corinthians were people who wanted the wow factor and the visible evidence of God (As the Gnostics believed God could not interact with man)*

- (v12) “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.”
 - God progressively has revealed himself to men over the years
 - *Through dreams and visions (dimly/particle)*
 - *Then through Jesus in person (dimly/particle as Jesus revealed in part *parables)*
 - *Then through scriptures today (dimly/particle)*
 - *Eschatologically Face to face (in clarit)*
 - *No longer need dreams and visions*
 - *No longer need prophesy or sign gifts*

- (v13) “faith, Hope, and Love will prevail” “but the greatest of all is Love”
 - God’s love is the glue to everything we do and give/serving

