

14 – 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 – The most excellent way

What does a church full of spiritually mature followers of Jesus look like?

- Well gifted people
- Good range of ages who all know each other.
- Generous
- Growing significantly

The church in Corinth

... expose how wrong it is to be followers of Jesus who pursue spiritual gifts as a sign of Spiritual maturity.

The most excellent way

... God gives gifts to his people as he determines

... for the common good

... the most excellent way = the right way to use the gifts God has given them.

All you need is love

v 1

the gift of tongues, but do not have love = a clanging gong.

... gift of prophecy but not love then I am nothing.

... using your gifts in a loving way is everything.

What gifts has God given you?

What sort of love?

- friendship love (Philia)
- sexual passion love (Eros),
- family affection (Storge)
- other person centred love (Agape).

Other person centred love.

... Wedding or marriages are not particularly in focus

Verse 4 ... love is patient

... in the way you use the gifts God has given you ... are you patient with them?

Love is also kind...

See Romans 2:4

... things that 'other person centred love' is NOT

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Love does not envy ...

Love does not boast...

Love is not proud...

v 5 'other-person centred love' does not dishonour others.

...is not about self seeking

... is not easily angered.

... keeps no record of wrongs.

... does not delight when evil happens.

v 6

... love always rejoices with the truth. It always protects, it always trusts, it always hopes and it always perseveres.

Pursue maturity in the way we love

We have all been exposed as NOT reflecting this sort of love perfectly.

...we can grow in reflection of 'other person centred' love.

'Other person centred' love will never fade away it will only move towards perfection.

How are you pursuing loving use of the gifts God has given you?

My one thing