

# Having Charity & Loving Others

## John 13, verses 34 & 35

34 A new commandment I [Jesus] give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, verses 1-8 and verse 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 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 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 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 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 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

## Colossians 3, verse 14

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

It is easy to be harsh towards other people; it often comes naturally. It is easy to overlook the fact that other people are in need, are suffering and are struggling. However, it is even more heinous to be harsh with those that are also God's children. Let me not forget that God has placed brotherly love as a defining characteristic of his people. When I look at others, who are causing me difficulty and stress, or who are just not behaving as I think they should, I should be reminded that God wants me to love them before I love myself and wants me to exercise love before I exercise knowledge. He wants me to demonstrate his love, through me, before I exercise any spiritual gifts I may have. God wants this brotherly love to be an inward part of me, not just an act I put on for other people. Before I ever respond to anyone, let me be reminded of the meaning of this chapter. Let me remember that the greatest joy I will ever know will come from God who gives freely and that God wants me to exhibit brotherly love. He considers this to be more important than faith and hope.

# Relevant Passages

## **Romans 12:9-10**

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

## **Colossians 3:12-15**

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

## **Hebrews 13:16**

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

## **1 John 3:18**

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

## **1 John 4:8-12**

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.