

A World of Love
I Corinthians 13:8-13, Micah 4:1-5
World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2017

1. _____ is a world of love.

I Corinthians 13:8-13 ⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Micah 4:3b ... They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

2. But we live in _____ times.

II Timothy 3:1-5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

Matthew 24:26 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

3. We are to _____ heaven on earth.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

4. The church without love is _____.

I John 4:7-8 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Revelation 2:4-5 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

I Corinthians 13:1-3 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

5. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love _____.

Matthew 5:43-48 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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Love never fails. What does that mean? Let's look at it.

1. (Heaven is a world of love.)

I Corinthians 13:8-13 ⁸ ***Love never fails.*** (ESV: ends) ***But where there are prophecies, they will cease; (In other words, prophecies will fail.) where there are tongues, they will be stilled; (In other words, tongues will fail.) where there is knowledge, it will pass away. (In other words, knowledge will fail. But not love.)*** ⁹ ***For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.***

¹³ ***And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.***

- The day will come when all people live in perfect love.
→ Heaven is a world of love. = #1
- OT Talks about Messianic Banquet (World Communion Sunday)

Micah 4:3b ... ***They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.***

- There can be no war in a world of love!
- To dwell in love with the saints above, oh! That will be such glory,

But to live below with the turkeys I know, now that's a different story.

2. But we live in troubled times.

■ **Political Division: Friend posted "Not my president"**

Rod Pinder So do you have a president? I've had several I didn't like much.

Friend Not one I can respect, Rod! He seems to thrive on dividing so many and instilling so much hatred. I don't hate him, not like me, but I can't find anything about him that I like ... I have never thought this badly about any sitting person of authority.

Rod Pinder That is a true and reasonable statement. I think the solution lies in honest statements like that. I think "I have a hard time respecting my president. He seems to thrive on dividing so many ..." is a constructive expression. I wish I saw more things like that on Facebook and elsewhere.

■ NFL, (The fact that I bring it up raises your blood pressure.)

■ Racism

II Timothy 3:1-5 ***But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.***

■ Threat of war. (Kim Jong-un)

Matthew 24:26 ***You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.***

TR So we have this dichotomy, this great difference between heaven and earth.

What do we do about it?

Live with it? Wait for heaven?

3. We are to create (emulate, imitate) heaven on earth.

Matthew 6:10 ***Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.***

■ God's kingdom comes when and where His will is done!

■ And what is God's will?

John 13:34-35 ***"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."***

■ Gospel

Matthew 28:18-20 ***Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (What has He commanded us?) And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."***

4. The church without love is not a church.

(And the Christian without love is not a Christian.)

I John 4:7-8 ***Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.***

Revelation 2:4-5 ***Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.***

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TR. So how do we love that way? With Christ-like love?

5. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love supernaturally.

- People are mad at me. Not even talking to me.

- (Maybe talking about me)

- How should I respond?

Matthew 5:43-48 ***43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.***

Romans 5:5 ***And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.***

- **Corrie Ten Boom**
- Close eyes. Let God pour His love into you.
- Think of someone hard to love.
- Let God's love flow through you for that person.
- Repeat as often as necessary.
- World Communion Sunday: Imagine all Christians ...
- One at a time.
- I'll start with me. You start with you.
- Let's do it! Let's create heaven on earth.
- Let's create a world of love.