

# WELCOME TO THE MOB!

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

# Announcements

- Men of the Bible: [www.ibcmob.net](http://www.ibcmob.net)
- Easter Concerts 11 - 13 April
- April 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday
- April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday
- CREDO conference 1-2 May



# Please Rise

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- **Invocation/Prayer**
  - **Song:**

**Before the Throne of God Above**

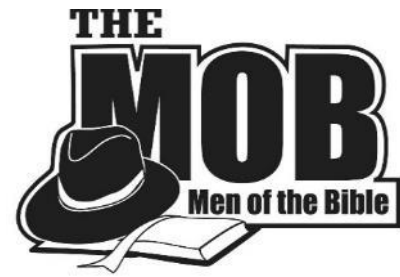
# Before the Throne of God Above

1 of 8

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Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is *Love*  
Who ever lives and pleads for me

# Before the Throne of God Above



2 of 8

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My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

# Before the Throne of God Above



3 of 8

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When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin

# Before the Throne of God Above

4 of 8

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Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace

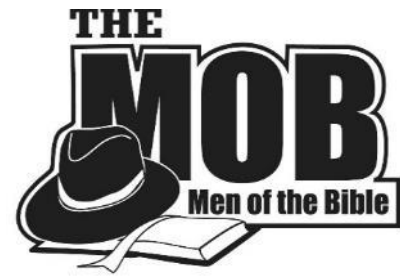


One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased with His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God

I bow before the cross of Christ  
*And marvel at this love divine*  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes

This river's depths I cannot know  
But I can glory in its flood  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low  
And poured on me *His glorious love*  
And poured on me *His glorious love*

# Memory Verse



## 1 Cor 13:2 (ESV)

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.

# Our 1 Corinthians Study

## Last Meeting:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (One Body)
- Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:26
- *Reading: Dr. Constable's Notes, pp. 240-253; MacArthur pp. 309-326*
- Refreshment Host - E

## This Meeting:

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (The Way of Love)**
- **Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:2**
- ***Reading: Dr. Constable's Notes, pp. 253-266; MacArthur pp. 327-367***
- **Refreshment Host - F**

# 1 Corinthians Outline

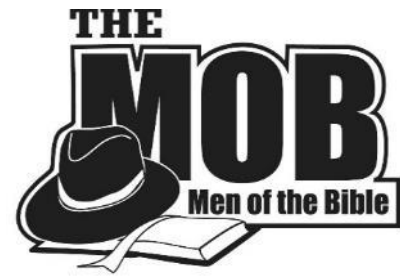
	1:1				4:21				5:1				6:20				7:1				16:4																			
<b>Divisions</b>	Report of Divisions				Reason for Divisions				Incest				Litigation Between Believers				Sexual Immorality				Counsel Concerning: Marriage				Counsel Concerning: Things offered to idols				Counsel Concerning: Public Worship				Counsel Concerning: Resurrection				Counsel Concerning: Collection for Jerusalem			
	1:1	1:17	1:18	4:21	5:1	5:13	6:1	6:11	6:12	6:20	7:1	7:40	8:1	11:1	11:2	14:40	15:1	15:50	16:1	16:24																				
<b>Topics</b>	Divisions in the Church								Disorder in the Church								Difficulties in the Church																							
	Concern								Condemnation																Counsel															
<b>Place</b>	Written in Ephesus																																							
<b>Time</b>	circa A.D. 56																																							



You are here!

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

## Introduction



### Prior in the letter – including Chapter 12

- Division and strife
- Abuse of Liberty...and your brother's welfare
- Surrender rights for the sake of the gospel
- Communion Chaos
- Purpose Spiritual gifts – “the common good”
- ONE BODY – focus on Unity

*a more excellent way*

### Chapter 13

*kind*

**LOVE**

*patient*

*endures all things*

### Chapter 14

- Repeated urges to build up the church
- Instructing others clearly – vs tongues
- “All may learn” and “all be encouraged”
- God is not a God of confusion but of peace

# Nothing...Without Love (vs 1-3)

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

- Most agree that there is not an actual language of angels
- Gongs / clanging – leverage in pagan cults – they made noise, but communicated nothing and benefited no one
- Repeated usage of “all” (continued hyperbole) – but still nothing without love
- “Possession of spiritual gifts is not the sign of the Spirit, but loving behavior is.” - Constable



# Tongues = Languages

... throughout this whole discussion of the gift of tongues there is no evidence that Paul regarded tongues as anything but intelligible languages. Throughout the whole New Testament, "tongues" means "languages."

- Constable, pg 255

# Quiz

Stupid is as stupid does.

Forrest Gump

*Love is as love does.*

# Love in Action (vs 4-7)

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Positive	Negative
Patient	Not jealous
Kind	Not boastful
Rejoices in truth	Not arrogant
	Not act disgracefully
	Not self-serving

- NASB renders the end of v. 5 as “does not take into account a wrong suffered”
- Love believes the best about someone

## Seasons Change (vs 8-10)

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

- NASB reads “if there are gifts of prophecy”, “if there are tongues”, “if there is knowledge”
- prophecy / knowledge => pass away / be done away; but tongues => cease
- Christian love (agape) characterizes our existence now and forever, but gifts (charismata) are only for the present. – Constable, pg 261
- State of perfection – various views:
  - The second coming of Christ
  - The final mature state of Christ’s body (the Church) at the end of the Church Age – once we are gathered together with Christ

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/cessationism.html>
- <https://thecripplegate.com> -- search for “cessationism”
- <https://immanuelbible.church/visit/what-we-teach>
  - We believe that sign gifts (apostle, prophet, healing, miracles, and tongues) authenticated the ministry and message of the apostles ([Ephesians 2:20](#); [Hebrews 2:1-4](#); [2 Corinthians 12:12](#)) and served in the establishment of the church ([Acts 2:41-47](#); [Acts 9:31-42](#)). We believe that God continues to demonstrate His miraculous power and ability to heal; but the sign gifts, as given to the early church, are not in effect today.

# To Know Fully (vs 11-12)

<sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>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.

- Child => Man – symbol of spiritual maturity
- Eph 4:11-13 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
- Sign of maturity to focus on eternal things (love) instead of temporal things (knowledge, tongues, prophecy)

# The Greatest (v 13)

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

# Conclusion

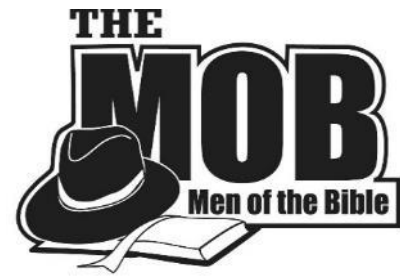
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**Love without Action is Empty**  
**Action without Love is Meaningless**

**Action with Love Demonstrates God's Design for  
the Body of Christ**



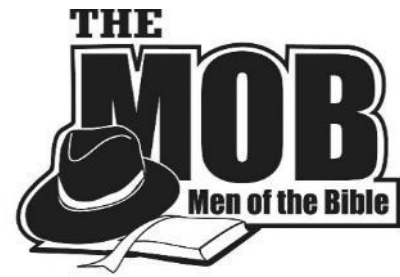
# Colossians 3:12-17



<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>**And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.** <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

# Discussion & Application

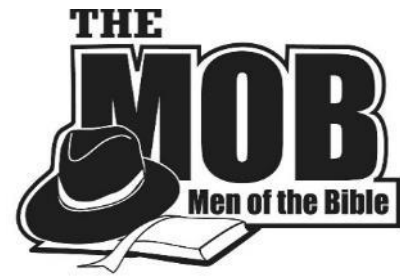
Lowell's Notes  
1 of 2



- Why does Paul begin I Corinthians 13 by referring to “tongues of men and of angels”?
- How does the emphasis on “love” fit in so appropriately, and so importantly, between what comes before and what comes after, in the progression of his epistle?
- Why does Paul use the analogy of “a noisy gong and clanging cymbals” to describe pagans with “tongues,” and a Christian without love)?
- How does Paul describe (or picture!) what real love is all about in verses 4-7—and how does it relate to everyday living for all of us?
- Why would MacArthur call love the “most blessed manifestation of the character of God”?
- Why is this “agape love” of I Corinthians 13 so necessary in the life of all believers and in the ministry of the church?

# Discussion & Application

Lowell's Notes  
2 of 2



- In what sense does love “never fail,” while other gifts will “cease and be done away with”?
- What will happen when the “perfect comes,” and when will it come?
- Why would Scripture rank love as “greater than faith and hope”?
- What are some other key verses in the Bible that speak of love and add to our understanding of its importance?
- How can we, as MOBsters make love as defined in this and other passages “a more excellent way” In our lives?

# Next Meeting 3/11

## Review

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:2
- *Dr. Constable's Notes, 2024 Ed.*, pp. 243-266; *MacArthur*, pp. 327-367

## Next Week

- 1 Corinthians 14:1-12
- Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 14:1
- *Dr. Constable's Notes, 2024 Ed.*, pp. 266-273; *MacArthur*, pp. 369-376.
- Refreshment Host: Group G

# Closing

- **Benediction**
- **Small Groups**

