

C & C: Spiritual Maturity

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

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.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” (Rm 8:9) If you have the Spirit of Christ you will “speak with the tongues of men and of angels” as the Holy Spirit gives the utterance, however if you do not have charity which is love, then you have “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.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rm 5:8) If you don’t love God and one another even if you were to give your body to be killed for some cause it doesn’t profit you anything! “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 Jn 3:14-16)

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Listen carefully. Charity/Love suffers long! Is kind! Does not envy! Does not brag or boast! Is not prideful nor haughty!

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Charity/Love does not behave itself inappropriately or unbecoming! Seeks not her own but looks to the needs of others! Is not easily provoked, irritated, nor infuriated! Thinks no evil, but rather brings into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ!

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Charity/Love does not rejoice, glory, or partake of iniquity! But rejoices, glories, and partakes of truth!

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity/Love bears all things! Believes all things that is doctrinally sound! Hopes all things that is scripturally supported! Endures 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.

Charity/Love never fails!

1 Corinthians 13:13

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Colossians 3:14

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

Charity/Love “is the bond of perfectness”!

Romans 13:7-10

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Charity/Love works no ill or evil intent to his neighbor! Therefore “love is the fulfilling of the law”!

Matthew 7:12-14

12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Matthew 22:36-40

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law!

James 3:13-18

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

The word conversation here means behavior. Let him that “is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you” “let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.” With meekness of wisdom. Humbleness of mind in meekness of spirit.

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

This wisdom is not from God, “but is earthly, sensual, devilish”!

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Godly wisdom “is first pure”! Is holy producing righteousness, uprightness, and virtue within those who possess it. Then peaceable! Godly wisdom is peaceable! “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” (Rm 14:19) “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Heb 12:14) Godly wisdom is gentle, mild, moderate! Godly wisdom is easy to be intreated, persuaded, and compliant! As long as it fully aligns up with the scriptures! Godly wisdom is full of mercy! “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” (Eph 4:32) Godly wisdom is full of good fruits! “Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.” (Phil 1:11) Godly wisdom is without partiality! “But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.” (James 2:9) Godly wisdom is without hypocrisy! “**And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**” (Lk 6:46)

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

“**Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.**” (Mt 5:9)

2 Peter 1:1-12

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The Apostle Peter speaking to those “that have obtained like precious faith” “through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” tells us that we have been given “exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature”! “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.” (Eph 5:30) The Apostle Peter then goes on to give us instructions on how we can be sure that we are neither “barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” and that “if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”!

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

Even as we “have obtained like precious faith” we are to give “all diligence” to “add to your faith virtue”! Diligent being with speed, eagerness, and in all earnestness! We are to add to our “like precious faith” virtue! Virtue being moral excellence and uprightness! And to this virtue knowledge! Knowledge of the Word of God!

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to this knowledge of the Word of God temperance! Temperance being self control! And to self control patience! “But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:4) And to this patience godliness! The attributes of being Godly! “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” (1 Jn 2:6)

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

And to these Godly attributes brotherly kindness! Brotherly kindness being brotherly love! “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:” (1 Peter 1:22) And to this brotherly love charity! Charity being a love for all mankind! “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Rm 13:10)

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

We are told that we are to “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice”!

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Your moderation referring to self control! Christians are to let their self control “be known unto all men”!

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

“Be careful for nothing” meaning not to be anxious for anything but rather “every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God”. This is how you are to come to the Lord Jesus with your prayer requests! We are then given this precious promise! “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”!

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Here we are given a filtering system for what things we are to think upon “if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”!

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.