

The Bond of Perfectness

Colossians 3:14-17

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.**

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do **in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Charity = Love

Love is the bond of Perfectness!! Let us therefore Put on Charity!!

1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 14:1

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.

In this chapter, the Apostle Paul is trying to relay to us the importance of having charity, or love. He is letting us know that Charity is of the utmost importance and that without it, we are nothing. Recall: **Romans 13:10** Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: **therefore love is the fulfilling of the law**. Also **Matthew 5:17** **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**

(Continuing)

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.**

Here Apostle Paul has point blank expressed the importance of charity, by explaining that even if we had all of these other wonderful gifts and revelations of God, that without charity we are 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.**

Here again, even if we give everything we have to the poor, or even if we lay down our lives for a cause, if we have not Charity (love) it does not profit us anything.

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.

The Apostle Paul has defined for us the characteristics of charity.

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.

This chapter and this particular verse has been misunderstood and misapplied by many churches in the denominal world. They will use this chapter and this verse to try and say that the gifts of tongues are no longer valid in this day and age and tell you that you can't trust prophecies because they can fail. This is not accurate.

For the sake of witnessing and for our own understanding, I am going to break this verse down and show you the Greek word and meaning, according to Strong's Concordance, for four of the words above.

Charity never **faileth**: 1601. ekpipto, ek-pip'-to; from G1537 and G4098; to drop away; spec. be driven out of one's course; fig. to lose, become inefficient:--be cast, fail, fall (away, off), take none effect.

Here we see that Charity will never become of none effect, or cease to be.

Whether there be prophecies, they shall **fail**: 2673. katargeo, kat-arg-eh'-o; from G2596 and G691; to be (render) entirely idle (useless), lit. or fig.:--abolish, cease, cumber, deliver, destroy, do away, become (make) of no (none, without) effect, fail, loose, bring (come) to nought, put away (down), vanish away, make void.

So when we see that whether there be prophecies, they shall fail, it means that it will cease or vanish away. It did not mean, that you could not trust them because they would be inaccurate.

Whether there be tongues, they shall **cease**: 3973. pauo, pow'-o; a prim. verb. ("pause"); to stop (trans. or intrans.), i.e. restrain, quit, desist, come to an end:-- cease, leave, refrain.

Again we see that whether there be tongues, they shall cease, means that it will come to an end, or cease to be.

Whether there be knowledge, it shall **vanish** away: 2673. katargeo, kat-arg-eh'-o; from G2596 and G691; to be (render) entirely idle (useless), lit. or fig.:--abolish, cease, cumber, deliver, destroy, do away, become (make) of no (none, without) effect, fail, loose, bring (come) to nought, put away (down), vanish away, make void.

Notice that the same word katargeo was used for both **fail** and **vanish**.

Again we see that whether there be knowledge it shall vanish away, also means that it will cease or vanish away.

So what this verse said was, Charity will never become inefficient or of none effect, however prophecies will cease or vanish away, tongues will come to an end, and knowledge will cease or vanish away.

The question that needs answered is when will prophecy, tongues, and knowledge cease, vanish away, or come to an end?

(Continuing)

9 For **we know in part**, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, **then** that which is in part shall be done away.

The answer is found in verse 10. When that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. Who is that which is perfect??? Jesus Christ is He that which is perfect. And when He shall come, there will no longer be a need for prophecy, which will cease or vanish away. There will no longer be a need for speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance, because we are now present with the Lord, and so tongues will come to an end. And we will no longer have need of knowledge, because that which is in part shall be done away with, and we will no longer only know in part.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

The concept being relayed is when I was a child I understood as a child, but with the understanding of a man, I no longer hold to childish things. Let me give an example:

When I was a child, I believed in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy. I understood as a child, and since I was told they were real, I believed. I thought as a child. But as a man, I no longer believe in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, or the Tooth Fairy, I put away childish things.

This comparison was given to compare our knowledge that is in part to when Jesus Christ comes and we know all things. From a child to a man. From natural to spiritual.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Again he compares our knowledge to looking through a dark glass, but then face to face. He then tells us that when Jesus Christ comes he will be known just as he also will know.

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

Just as I mentioned in the beginning of this lesson, Apostle Paul is trying to relay to us the importance of having charity, or love. He is letting us know that Charity is of the utmost importance and that without it, we are nothing. He now compares faith, hope, and charity, and tells us that even with these three, Charity is the greatest.

14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

We are then told to follow after Charity, but to also desire spiritual gifts. And that we should desire the most the gift of prophesy. He tells us this because prophesy edifies the church, the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, **be strong.**

14 Let all your things be done with charity.

1 Timothy 1:5

5 Now **the end of the commandment is charity** out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

1 Peter 4:8-11

8 **And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: **that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Peter 1-11

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.

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

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

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

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.

Wow what a promise!! If we add to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; we will not be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and if we do these things, we will never fall!!!!

So the first thing we learn here is that faith is our foundation. This is the truth in which we believe. The Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our Salvation. We are told to then add to this Truth or faith, virtue. Virtue being moral excellence. Then to add knowledge to this virtue. This referring to your knowledge of the Word of God. Then to add temperance to your knowledge. Temperance meaning self control or self restraint. Then add patience to this temperance. Patience meaning endurance or suffering without becoming angry or upset. Add to your patience, godliness. Godliness meaning holiness and being reverent. Then add to your godliness, brotherly kindness. This meaning brotherly love or love of the brethren. Add to this brotherly kindness, charity. This charity being a love for all mankind.

Apostle Peter tells us to give diligence to make your calling and election sure, by doing these things. Because if we add to our faith, these seven things, we will never fall.

Mark 12:28-34

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

29 And Jesus answered him, **The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:**

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

33 And to **love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**

34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, **Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.** And no man after that durst ask him any question.