

Bible Study – 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Objectives:

- ✠ Define “Love” according to the Orthodox Church.
- ✠ Explain the “signs” of Love and why Love is so important in Christianity.

Key verses:

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:5)

Lesson Outline:

[CLASS QUESTIONS] – Ask “What is Love”?

“How do you know you are loved”?

Then ask “How do you show ‘Love’ to your friends, family and to God”?

Quickly identify the three concepts of “Love” during St. Paul’s time:

Agape – Spiritual Love. E.g. God’s love for us.

Philia – Personal Love. E.g. Love between good friends.

Eros – Sexual Love. E.g. Lust.

Now read the chapter once through.

Now go back and separate the Chapter into 3 parts:

Part 1 – Verses 1-3.

Go through the verses, then identify and emphasize how St. Paul thought so highly of Love that he thought it better than any other virtue.

Part 2 – Verses 4-10.

Go through the verses, and explain each concept regarding Love. E.g. Love never fails. This refers to the fact that true Love.....Godly Love, never gets it wrong, never makes mistakes, it is a perfecter of people.

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Quickly read Matthew Chapter 5 (Beatitudes) and identify the similarities between Our Lord's ideal person and St. Paul's description of Love. Explain how we are all asked to live out this sort of Love.

Part 3 – Verse 11-13

Go through the verses and explain how our knowledge of Christ rises us into spiritual maturity, and we need to act like spiritual men, always in Love. Agape.

Note how the last verse puts Love above hope and even faith, which many think is the only thing needed to get to heaven.

Conclusion:

God really thinks that Love is the most important attribute a Christian can have. God shows that Love is not really mystical or unknown. St. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, speaks of a Love which is real, and can be achieved.

Ask the class to try to follow the practical aspects of this Love. Remind them that the Bible has all the answers, such as, to the question of "What is Love"?

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.