

## Women of Faith

Love is Permanent  
I Corinthians 13:8-13

**Before beginning, pray that the Holy Spirit will teach and enlighten you as you study.  
We encourage you to add any Scripture not included in the lesson to support your answers.**

### **Week One**

1. As you studied the attributes of love last month, what is something you learned or were reminded of in verses 4-7? What changes have occurred in the way you love others as a result?
2. Read I Corinthians 13. Re-read I Corinthians 13:8-13.
3. What is this final attribute of love in verse 8a?
4. Look up the word "fail." What does it mean?
5. Look up the word "never." Record your findings.
6. Therefore, what does "love never fails" mean?

7. Luke 16:17 uses the same verb, "fail." Compare the significance of this verse with I Corinthians 13:8a.
8. How then does Paul contrast the other gifts discussed in I Corinthians 13:8 with love?
9. What two verbs does Paul use in I Corinthians 13:8 to describe the cessation or termination of these gifts?
10. Skim back over I Corinthians 1-12. What were some of the sins the church at Corinth was dealing with?
11. How would love and its permanence remedy these sins?
12. Does this mean that as long as we minister in love, we will always meet with "success?" (See Luke 11:53-54; 19:47; John 6:66; 10:31; II Corinthians 11:24-33 for help)

*"That which most completely characterizes God Himself [love] should characterize His children."*

*John MacArthur*

## **Week Two**

13. In light of what we have learned concerning the condition of the Corinthian church, why do you suppose Paul chose to list these three particular gifts in I Corinthians 13:8? Are these the only gifts that will one day end?
  
14. Contrast the Corinthian Church's use of the gift of tongues with I Corinthians 14:22.
  
15. The Corinthian Church also struggled with a desire for knowledge and wisdom. How do you see this in I Corinthians 1:18-2:5?
  
16. Contrast your observations in question #15 above with I Corinthians 8:1.
  
17. In I Corinthians 13:9, Paul then goes on to describe knowledge and prophesy. What does he say concerning these two gifts?
  
18. According to I Corinthians 13:10, when will this "in part" cease?
  
19. Record your thoughts on what the "perfect" is referring to.

20. Look up the following passages in which this same Greek word (translated "perfect" in I Corinthians 13:10) is used. Record your observations.

Matthew 5:48

Matthew 19:21

Romans 12:2

I Corinthians 2:6

I Corinthians 14:20

Ephesians 4:13

Philippians 3:15

Colossians 1:28

Colossians 4:12

Hebrews 5:14

James 3:2

*This is a good time to begin thinking about these revelatory gifts. Have they ceased? Have they been done away with? In chapter 14, we will begin to look for the answer, but start thinking and searching.*

*"My son, if you will receive my sayings, and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; for if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the Lord, and discover the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:1-6*

### **Week Three**

21. Will we as believers ever attain full and complete knowledge here on earth?

Job 11:7-9

Job 26:14

Psalms 40:5

Psalms 139:1-6

Romans 11:33-34

22. In spite of the answer to question #21 above, what does Paul encourage the church at Corinth to do in I Corinthians 13:11?

23. What does the phrase "childish things" mean in the life of a believer?

24. Ephesians 4:14-16 parallels I Corinthians 13:11. What further insights do you gather?

25. Is there any importance in Paul's choice of the verbs "speak, reason, think" in I Corinthians 13:11?

26. Is continuing immaturity or childishness taught or condoned in Scripture? (I Corinthians 3:1-4; Hebrews 5:11-14)

27. How are we individually, and as a body, to work toward this maturity? (Include any Scripture to back up your answer.)
28. Paul then goes on to compare this process of maturing and partial knowledge to what in I Corinthians 13:12a?
29. Think of the probable quality/inferiority of mirrors in the first century. How does this thought help further understanding of Paul's statement in I Corinthians 13:12a?

*"The New Testament along with the Old Testament is God's completed revelation to His church, but when compared to post-Advent conditions even this inspired collection will be seen as only a small fraction of all God knows. It is only when the Savior returns that the body of Christ will be permitted to exceed the wisdom and knowledge of God's Word."*

*Dr. Robert Thomas*

30. Paul states in I Corinthians 13:12 that he "will know fully." To whom is he referring?

#### **Week Four**

31. In I Corinthians 13:13 what three virtues are spoken of?
32. What is our guarantee, here on earth, regarding these three, in contrast to those in I Corinthians 13:8?

33. We have seen love defined thus far in chapter 13. According to the following, what do you learn of faith and hope?

Psalm 42:11

Romans 5:4-5

I Corinthians 1:21

Ephesians 2:8-9

I Thessalonians 1:3

34. What do you notice regarding this trio in Scripture? (Look at some of these passages: Galatians 5:5-6, Colossians 1:4-5, Hebrews 6:10-12; 10:22-24)

35. What is the significance of these attributes being mentioned together so often?

36. Yet, love is still the greatest, the more excellent way, and will last. Why will faith and hope not last into eternity? (See II Corinthians 5:6-8 and Romans 8:24-25 for help.)

37. Read I John 4:8. Why is love the only virtue that will survive into eternity?

38. Look back over I Corinthians 12 and 13. List any attributes of God you see or that particularly stand out to you.

39. Thus far in our study of "Putting Love Back In the Church" we have learned much. What is one central area of your life that God has changed through the study of His Word?

40. What is one key area that you still desire to see changed and are working toward?

Please be ready to share your answers to Questions #39 & #40 with your group. God can use these things to encourage others, but most importantly may the transformation that He brings about in our hearts (attitudes, thinking, actions) bring glory to our Lord as he manifests Himself through change in us by His Word and the Holy Spirit.

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good words, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

*Matthew 5:16*