

Friday, March 27 ~ The Greatest Gift ~ [1 Corinthians 12:27-13:3](#)

I feel like I've won the lottery in writing about these verses. This is just a part of one of our favorite and most quoted verses in the Bible. It's aptly called the love verse, and if you continue reading all of chapter 13, you'll remember why we use it at weddings so much.

Let's back up a little. This is so much more than a wedding verse. Paul says we are ALL part of the body of Christ and that we ALL are given gifts, some more obvious than others, and we should use these gifts every single day. BUT the most important gift we have is the gift of love. The people of Corinth were crossed up in many ways, exactly like we are today. Politics, Church policies, and other life issues can make us forget that we must love one another. Paul says the greatest gift we have is love. My Sunday school teacher, Dr. Jimmy Stokes, says every single Sunday that we must love one another. Agree to disagree, but love each other and show your love. Love the Lord first, and all things good will come.

*Judy Gilbert has called Madison First UMC home for 52 years. Her three children and all seven grandchildren were baptized here and two of her children were married here - all in our beautiful sanctuary. Judy sings in the choir, attends Sunday school, and is a member of the prayer ministry.*

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:3 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues<sup>[a]</sup>? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

## Love Is Indispensable

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

**13** If I speak in the tongues<sup>[b]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[c]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.

### Footnotes:

- a. [1 Corinthians 12:30](#) Or *other languages*
- b. [1 Corinthians 13:1](#) Or *languages*
- c. [1 Corinthians 13:3](#) Some manuscripts *body to the flames*