

# The Unifying Glue, the Healing Substance

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**Textual Idea:** The gifts of the spirit should not be exercised without love, or else they are worthless.

**Homiletical Idea:** Christians must nurture true love which is manifested through actions of patience, tolerance, kindness, humility, and non-judgmental.

**Purpose Statement:** Prepare the congregation for the foot washing and communion ordinances.

## Intro:

1. The “love chapter” in the Bible is presented in the context of proper use of spiritual gifts.
  1. The church was divided because of the exaltation of certain gifts over other gifts.
  2. The church was placing emphasis on the gift of tongues and that was creating contention in the church.
  3. Paul advocates for the exercise of love toward one another even in the context of spiritual gifts in order to keep the church united.

## Body:

2. Love for one another must be exercised in the church:
  1. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 – The gifts of the spirit should not be exercised without love, or else they are worthless.
  2. 1 John 4:20, 21 – John states that he that does not love his brother cannot love God.
3. Paul points out 7 characteristics of love:
  1. Suffer long – Patience and tolerance
    1. It recognizes that all human beings are fallible, therefore it provides allowance for mistakes and failures.
    2. Long-suffering is opposed to haste, to passionate expressions and thoughts, and to irritability.
  2. Bear all things – “to cover closely.” Love conceals and is silent about the faults of others.
  3. Endure all things – Love suffers all the difficulties, trials, persecutions, and injuries inflicted by man without allowing bitterness and hopelessness to take control.
  4. Kind – To be gentle, respectful, to be considerate and mild. Kindness is the reverse of hatred, which manifests itself in severity, anger, harshness and revenge.
  5. Rejoices in the truth – Love rejoices not in the vices of others but in virtue, righteousness, and goodness.
  6. Believe all things – Love is willing to put the best possible construction on the conduct of others, imputing good motives to them except on irrefutable evidence of the contrary.

7. Hope all things – However dark appearances may be, and whatever grounds there may be for questioning the sincerity of others, love still hopes that everything will be well in the end, and will maintain this position until all possibility of its confirmation disappears.
4. 8 acts and attitudes that are totally foreign to love's nature:
  1. Does not envy – It does not exhibit wrong or unpleasant feelings toward others on account of advantages possessed by them.
  2. Does not parade itself – Love does not sound its own praises; it is humble and does not exalt self.
  3. Is not puffed up – Love does not inflate a person with vanity.
  4. Does not behave rudely – Love does not seek to offend the feelings and sensibilities of others.
  5. Does not seek its own – Love is not selfish, seeking after one's own advantage, influence, or honor as the great objective in life.
    1. Love is willing to sacrifice his own comfort, time, ease, wealth, and talents to advance the welfare of mankind.
  6. Is not provoked – Love is calm, it does not display annoyance, impatience, or anger.
  7. Thinks no evil – Love does not reckon the evil. It is willing to forgive.
  8. Does not rejoice in iniquity – Love finds no pleasure in the wrong doing or moral fall of others, whether on the part of friend or foe.
5. Jesus is the only One whom has fully manifested this kind of love in which we must strive to grow into.
  1. This kind of love is specially manifested when He yielded His life as atonement for sin.
  2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and replace the word "love" for the name "Jesus."
  3. May the Lord help us to grow in love.