

# The Most Excellent Quality of Life: Love, Not Gifts

## 1 Corinthians 13: 01–13

### 1 *The great importance of love*

- a. Verdict 1:  
Tongues without love are meaningless
- b. Verdict 2:  
Gifts without love are nothing
  - 1) Prophecy is nothing
  - 2) Understanding all mysteries and knowledge are nothing
  - 3) Faith is nothing
- c. Verdict 3:  
Giving without love profits nothing
  - 1) Giving one's goods
  - 2) Giving one's life — martyrdom

### 2 *The great acts of love*

### 3 *The great permanence of love*

- a. It never fails,  
never ceases,  
never vanishes
- b. It is perfect and complete
- c. It is maturity — mature behaviour
- d. It is being face to face with God —  
perfect consciousness and knowledge

### 4 *The great supremacy of love*

- 1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,  
but have not love,  
I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 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 have not love,  
I am nothing.
- 3 If I give all I possess to the poor  
and surrender my body to the flames,  
but have not love,  
I gain nothing.
- 4 Love is patient, love is kind.  
It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
- 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
- 6 Love does not delight in evil  
but rejoices with the truth.
- 7 It always protects, always trusts,  
always hopes, always perseveres.
- 8 Love never fails.  
But where there are prophecies, they will cease;  
where there are tongues, they will be stilled;  
where there is knowledge, it will pass away.
- 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
- 10 But when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.
- 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child,  
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.  
When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.
- 12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror;  
then we shall see face to face.  
Now I know in part;  
then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.
- 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.