

引言 INTRODUCTION

This is a well-known passage of the book. Churches read it at weddings, and many songs are written from it. But in the Bible, love is far more than romance. It includes our devotion to God and our commitment to one another—in friendships, in families and in the church. Love is natural and evident when a relationship is healthy. Some of you know the New Testament uses several Greek words for love. Here, Paul uses “agape,” a word that means selfless and unconditional love. It is choosing to treat others well even when you gain nothing in return. Paul puts this chapter right between two sections on spiritual gifts for a reason. One of the major problems in Corinth was pride. Believers bragged about their gifts and what they could do. Paul challenged them implicitly to think if there was love when they used their gifts. That question changes everything. The issue becomes the difference between showing off yourself and showing love to others. It is no longer, “Look what I’ve done!” but “How can I serve you?” Think of it this way: fireworks and bridges both display power. Fireworks are loud and impressive, but they disappear in seconds. Bridges are strong and steady; they carry people day after day. Once in a while, God may raise up heroes in His kingdom. But the church needs far more ordinary believers who quietly build others up in love. As such, love must be more than a feeling; it must come with actions. We must show love in how we speak, how we serve and how we treat one another.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 愛的缺乏 Exclusion of Love (v. 1-3)

Paul begins with the negative side of the argument: exclusion of love amounts to little. Let us read **verses 1 to 3**. Paul gives four situations using the same sentence structure: If I can do X but have no love, then the result is nothing. Case #1: Paul can speak every kind of tongue, even the language of angels. But without love, it is just like hitting a gong or clanging a cymbal. There is noise, but no music. Case #2: Paul has all wisdom and knowledge. Picture a scholar who writes books and gives long lectures. But without love, his teaching becomes cold facts. Knowledge can inform people, but it may not inspire them. Case #3: Paul has enough faith to move mountains. But without love, miracles may catch people’s eyes, yet they cannot change their hearts. Case #4: Paul gives everything he has to the poor. He even sacrifices his life. History has heroes and martyrs like this. But without love, even great sacrifices become nothing more than legendary stories. In all four cases, people have impressive abilities but the wrong attitude. A good example in the Bible is the Pharisees. They knew the Bible from cover to cover. They taught it, but they

did not live it. They did not even believe what they preached. Jesus called them hypocrites—a Greek word that refers to an actor. In Greek drama, one actor might play several roles by switching masks. The audience can tell when he is playing a sad person in one scene and playing a bad guy in the next scene. The Pharisees acted the same way. They put on a show to impress people. They behaved “holy” only when someone was watching. They enjoyed respect and admiration, but they had no love for God or others. Without love, we will become like Pharisees. Why we do certain things is just as important as what we do and how we do it. Love must be the reason behind our service. Otherwise, we simply go through the motions with little emotion. To check our motives, we can use a few simple tests: 1. The Eye Test. Do you serve only when someone is watching? Do you prefer visible roles but avoid serving behind the scene? Are you doing good works for people to see or for God to remember? 2. The Ear Test. Do you crave praise and feel upset when no one applauds? Are you trying to please people or seeking God’s approval? 3. The Heart Test. Do you grumble over small things while serving? Do you get frustrated when others do not follow your plans? Or do you still have joy even when the burden is heavy, expectations are unreasonable and deadlines are near? When love is present, we put God and others above ourselves. Pastor Billy Graham once said that becoming a Christian will reverse our priorities. In the past, we put ourselves first, others second and rarely think of God. After we follow Jesus, God should come first, others next and ourselves last. This order goes against human nature. No one needs to teach us how to love ourselves—we eat well, dress well, and pamper ourselves with fancy goods. That is why we need the Holy Spirit to rewire our hearts and remind us to love God and others. When we submit to the Holy Spirit, love becomes natural. You start caring about people’s feelings and needs, just as you hope they care about yours. You thank waiters and store clerks sincerely. You hold the door for strangers. You pour a cup of water for a child. You do many big and small things—not to win a trophy, but out of love. You love others because you are loved by God.

2. 愛的表現 Expressions of Love (v. 4-7)

After talking about the exclusion of love, Paul goes on and shares some expressions of love. Most Christians know **verses 4–7** well. Paul lists 15 expressions of love—some positive, some negative. In Greek, all 15 are verbs, affirming once again that love must come with actions. We can group these expressions into four categories. First, love must be helpful. (1) Love is patient. Love bears with people—even difficult ones—and absorbs offense without striking back. (2) Love is kind. Love seeks opportunities to bless others. (3) Love is not rude. Love treats people with respect, not shame. Second, love stays humble. (4) Love does not envy. Love is not jealous others’ success. (5) Love does not boast. Love does not intentionally draw attention to itself. (6) Love is not arrogant. Love does not inflate the ego or feel superior. (7) It does not insist on its own way. Love does not put one’s personal interest first. (8) Love is not irritable. Love is not quick-tempered but practices self-control. In the third category, love shows honor. (9) Love is not resentful. Love does not keep a record of wrongs. (10) It is because love does not rejoice

at wrongdoing. Love does not delight in sin or failure. (11) Instead, love rejoices with the truth. Love celebrates what is true and righteous. In the last category, love remains hopeful. (12) Love bears all things. Love protects others instead of exposing their weaknesses. (13) Love believes all things. Love chooses trust rather than assuming the worst. (14) Love hopes all things. Love expects God's good purposes even in bad situations. (15) Love endures all things. Love stays persistent under pressure. These 15 qualities stand in sharp contrast to the Corinthian church. Their main problem was pride, which led to self-centeredness. They judged others from their own viewpoint. Wealthy members looked down on the poor. They ignored people's needs. They followed their favorite teachers. They sued each other. They tolerated serious sin. They ate meat sacrificed to idols, and caused believers who had a "weaker faith" to stumble. Some who spoke in tongues felt superior. They had a long way to grow in love. How do we avoid their mistakes? We can follow the four H's we just mentioned. First, be helpful to others. Pay attention to people's needs and ready to offer practical help. Encouraged those who have a heavy heart. Second, stay humble. Listen more and speak less. Do not rush to conclusions or give quick advice. Third, give others honor. Praise people for a job well done, even small things. Highlight good qualities—faithfulness, kindness, wisdom. Fourth, be hopeful. Encourage people by saying, "I believe in you," especially when they make mistakes. Trust their good intentions even when you disagree. Ultimately, trust that God is in control and will reveal His plans in time. The truth is, a church is made up of people with different backgrounds, personalities, gifts and talents. We cannot serve together without love. Where love is present, grace, peace and joy will follow.

3. 愛的延伸 Extension of Love (v. 8-13)

Paul cautions us about the exclusion of love. He also shows us some expressions of love. He ends the chapter by telling us the extension of love. Let us look at **verses 8–13**. Paul uses three illustrations to contrast what is temporary and partial with what is permanent and complete. First, spiritual gifts. Paul mentions prophecy, tongues and knowledge. These gifts are useful now, but one day they will end. Second, a child growing up. As a child matures, childish thinking, behavior and speech fade away. Third, a mirror. In Paul's day, mirrors were polished metal, giving a blurry reflection. Even today, FaceTime is not the same as seeing someone face to face. What is Paul getting at? The clue is in verse 10: **But when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away**. When Christians enter heaven, the incomplete will give way to the complete. Believers will receive a new, eternal body. More importantly, we will see God face to face. There will be no need for Bible study, because our knowledge of God will be full and direct. Many things we value now will become unnecessary in heaven, but love will keep growing. Verse 8 says, **Love never ends...** We will never stop loving God or loving one another. That is why verse 13 says: **So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love**. Faith will no longer be needed, because we will see God directly. Instead of praying to a God we cannot see by faith, we will talk to Him standing in front of us. Hope will no longer be needed either, because everything we hoped for—being with God forever—will

be fulfilled. But love will extend. Since everything in this world will eventually disappear, we should live now with a heavenly perspective. Do not be so caught up by the things of the moment. The next iPhone, the latest trend, the newest show—all will pass. Do not try to build your heaven on earth. Rather, focus on what will last forever. Ask yourself: Are you growing in love toward your brothers and sisters? You will spend eternity with them. If you cannot stand someone in church now, how will you spend forever with them in heaven? Settle conflicts quickly. Do not wait for the other person to apologize—it may never happen. Instead, ask God for more love and take the first step toward reconciliation. Let God's sweetness wash away bitterness. We must grow in love for fellow believers. We must also grow in love for God. If you do not love God now, how will you enjoy His presence forever? It would be like an unhappy marriage that never ends. Is that the heaven you want? Therefore, we must practice loving God now. Think of it in human terms: loving God is like loving your spouse, family and close friends. Dr. Gary Chapman's "Five Love Languages" can help us practicing loving God. (1) Words of affirmation – Praise God with your lips. Tell Him He is wonderful, mighty, patient and gentle. (2) Quality time – Set aside quiet time each day to read the Bible and pray. Do not just go down your shopping list. Thank Him for His care and confess sins the Holy Spirit reveals. (3) Gifts – Offer your money, or offer your songs of praise. (4) Acts of service – Serve God by serving people with your time, talents and resources. (5) Physical touch – We cannot physically touch God, but we can interact with Him in our spirit and express our love to Him. When we let love flow, love will grow.

結論 CONCLUSION

Love must be more than a feeling; it must come with actions. Our love is limited, but Jesus shows us what unconditional love truly looks like. He gave Himself on the cross while we were still lost in sin. His death is more than an inspiring example—His forgiveness changes us from the inside out. We can love like Jesus only when we receive a new life from Him. Then we will be willing to pay the price, to give even when we are not welcomed, and to serve even when it costs us. What matters most is that people see Jesus through us. The song "Only Jesus" by Casting Crowns captures this beautifully. Part of the lyrics say: "All the kingdoms built, all the trophies won will crumble into dust when it's said and done. 'Cause all that really matters: Did I live the truth to the ones I love? Was my life the proof that there is only One whose name will last forever? And I don't want to leave a legacy. I don't care if they remember me – only Jesus. And I've only got one life to live. I'll let every second point to Him – only Jesus." When the Lord saves us, He does not call us to ordinary things, but to extraordinary things empowered by His Spirit. In the end, only one thing will matter—did people see Jesus in the way we lived and loved? Everything else will vanish, but love done in His name will carry on into eternity.

引言 INTRODUCTION

這一章可能是我們在整卷書中熟悉的經文。教會經常在婚禮中使用它，許多詩歌也根據它而寫成。然而在聖經裡，愛不只是浪漫。它包括我們對神的忠心，和我們對別人的委身——在朋友之間、在家庭裡、在教會中。當一段關係健康時，愛自然就會流露。有些人知道，新約聖經有好幾個希臘字可以表達「愛」。在這裡，保羅使用的是「agape」，指的是無私、無條件的愛。這種愛是選擇善待別人，縱使自己得不到任何回報。保羅把這一章放在兩段談論屬靈恩賜的經文中間，是有原因的。哥林多教會的一大問題就是驕傲。信徒誇耀自己擁有的恩賜、能做什麼事。保羅在挑戰他們，當他們使用恩賜時，有否帶著愛。這樣的思維改變了一切。焦點不再是炫耀自己，而是表達對別人的愛。不再是「你看我做了什麼！」而是「我可以怎麼服事你？」可以這樣想：煙火和橋樑都展現力量。煙火很響亮、很壯觀，但轉瞬即逝。橋樑卻堅固穩定，天天承受交通的重量。偶爾，神的國度裡會出現英雄；但教會更需要的是許多平凡的信徒，默默地以愛建立別人。因此，愛不能只停留在感覺上。愛必須付諸行動。我們要在說話、服事、以及彼此相待的方式上，把愛表現出來。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 愛的缺乏 Exclusion of Love (v. 1-3)

保羅先從負面的角度開始：缺乏愛，所做的一切都微不足道。我們來讀第1到3節。保羅用同樣的句法提出四種情況：如果我能做某件事，但沒有愛，結果就是毫無價值。第一種情況：保羅能說各種方言，甚至天使的語言。但若缺乏愛，就像敲鑼打鼓一樣，只剩噪音，沒有音樂。第二種情況：保羅擁有一切智慧和知識。想像一位學者，他寫書、演講。但若沒有愛，他的教導只是冰冷的事實。他增加人們的知識，但不一定能啟發別人。第三種情況：保羅有足夠的信心能夠移山。但若沒有愛，神蹟只能吸引人的眼睛，卻不能改變人的心。第四種情況：保羅把所有財產都送給窮人，甚至願意為他人捨命。歷史上確實有這樣的英雄和殉道者。但若沒有愛，這些犧牲只會成為傳說故事。在這四種情況中，人都有特殊的能力，但心態錯誤。聖經中最好的例子就是法利賽人。他們熟讀聖經。他們教導聖經，自己卻不實行真理；甚至不相信自己所講的。耶穌稱他們為「假冒為善的人」。這個希臘字原本指「演員」。在希臘戲劇中，一

位演員可能戴不同的面具扮演不同角色。觀眾看面具就知道他在這一幕是演悲傷的人，下一幕卻演壞人。法利賽人也是如此。他們演出一場宗教秀，只為吸引人的注意。他們只有在有人看見時才表現得敬虔。他們享受別人的尊敬和讚賞，但對神和人卻毫無愛。若缺乏愛，我們也會變成法利賽人。我們做事的原因，和做事的方式與內容一樣重要。愛必須是我們服事的動機。否則，我們只是把事情完成，心裡卻毫無感動。我們可以用三個簡單的方法檢查自己的動機：一、眼睛的測試。你是否只在有人看見時才服事？你是否喜歡顯眼的服事角色，而避免幕後的工作？你做好事，是為了讓人看見，還是為了讓神記念？二、耳朵的測試。你是否渴望別人的表揚，沒有掌聲就不高興？你是在討人的喜悅，還是在追求神的喜悅？三、心靈的測試。你服事時是否常為小事抱怨？別人不按照你的計畫行事時，你是否容易生氣？還是就算負擔沉重、要求不合理、期限逼近，你仍然有喜樂？如果我們心中充滿愛，我們便會把神和別人放在自己之上。葛培理牧師曾說，成為基督徒後，我們的優先次序會完全翻轉。以前，我們把自己放第一，別人第二，很少想到神。跟隨耶穌之後，神應該在最前面，其次是別人，最後才是自己。這個次序違反人的本性。沒有人需要教我們如何愛自己——我們吃得好、穿得好，用得好。因此，我們需要聖靈重新調整我們的心態，提醒我們愛神、愛人。當我們順服聖靈之時，愛就會變得自然。你會注意別人的感受和需要，就像你希望他們注意你一樣。你會真誠地感謝侍應生和店員。你會為陌生人開門。你會為孩子倒一杯水。你會做許多大小事——不是為了稱讚，而是出於愛。你愛別人，是因為你是被神所愛的。

2. 愛的表現 Expressions of Love (v. 4-7)

在談完缺乏愛的後果之後，保羅接著分享愛的具體表現。大部份基督徒都熟悉第 4-7 節。保羅列出 15 種愛的表現——有正面的，也有負面的。在希臘文裡，這 15 個特質全部都是動詞。保羅再次強調：愛必須付出行動。我們可以把這些表現分成四大類。第一類：愛必須給人益處 (1) 愛是恆久忍耐。愛能忍受別人——就算是難相處的人——並能忍受冒犯而不報復。(2) 愛是有恩慈。愛會尋找機會去祝福別人。(3) 愛是不做害羞的事。意思是不羞辱人，而是尊重別人。第二類：愛必須保持謙卑。(4) 愛是不嫉妒。愛不會因別人的成功而眼紅。(5) 愛是不自誇。愛不會刻意吸引別人的注意。(6) 愛是不張狂。愛不會自我膨脹，也不覺得自己高人一等。(7) 愛不求自己的益處。愛不把個人利益放在第一位。(8) 愛是不輕易發怒。愛不會急躁，被冒犯時能控制脾氣。第三類：愛必須尊重他人。(9) 愛是不計算人的惡。愛不會記帳，等待機會報復。(10) 因為愛是不喜歡不義。愛不會因別人的罪或失敗而感到高興。(11) 反之，愛是只喜歡真理。愛會為真實、公義的事情高興。第四類：愛必須保持盼望。(12) 愛凡事包容。愛保護別人，而不是揭露他們的弱點。(13) 愛凡事相信。愛選擇信任，而不是假

設別人有最壞的動機。(14) 愛凡事盼望。愛在困難中仍然期待神的美好旨意。(15) 愛凡事忍耐。愛在壓力下仍然堅持不放棄。這 15 種特質與哥林多教會的情況形成強烈對比。他們最大的問題是驕傲，而驕傲帶來自我中心。他們用自己的角度論斷別人；有錢人看不起窮人；並忽略他人的需要；他們追隨自己喜歡的教師；上法庭彼此告狀；容忍嚴重的罪；隨意吃拜祭過偶像的肉，使信心軟弱的人跌倒；有講方言恩賜的人覺得自己比別人優越。他們在愛的功課上還有很多的要學習的地方。那我們如何避免他們的錯誤呢？可以按照剛才提到的四個大類來實行。第一，做一個帶給人益處的人。留心別人的需要，隨時提供實際幫助；安慰心情沉重的人。第二，保持謙卑。多聽少說；不要急著下結論或馬上給出建議。第三，尊重他人。為別人做得好的事稱讚他們，縱然是小事；肯定他們的優良品格——如忠心、良善、有智慧。第四，保持盼望。常常對別人說：「我信任你」，尤其是在別人犯錯時；雖然你不同意他們的做法，但是相信他們的動機是正面的。最終，你相信神掌權，祂會按時顯明祂的計畫。事實是，教會由不同背景、個性、恩賜和才幹的人組成。若沒有愛，我們無法一起服事。有愛的地方，就會有恩典、平安和喜樂。

3. 愛的延伸 Extension of Love (v. 8-13)

保羅已經提醒我們，缺乏愛會帶來什麼後果。他也向我們展示了愛的一些表現。在結束這一章時，他告訴我們愛的延伸。讓我們看第 8-13 節。保羅用三個比喻，對比「暫時、不完全」與「永恆、完全」。第一，是屬靈恩賜。保羅提到作先知講道、講方言和知識。這些恩賜現在有用，但有一天都會停止。第二，是孩子的成長。孩子長大後，幼稚的思想、行為和語言都會慢慢消失。第三，照鏡子。在保羅的時代，鏡子只是一塊金屬，映照出來的影像模糊不清。就算今天有視訊 (FaceTime)，看螢幕仍不如面對面見到本人。保羅要表達什麼呢？線索在第 10 節：**等那完全的來到，這有限的必歸於無有了**。當基督徒進入天家，不完全的就會變得完全的。信徒將得著新的、永恆的身體。更重要的是，我們將與神面對面相見。那時不再需要看聖經，因為我們對神的認識將是完全而直接的。今生許多我們看重的事物在天上都會失去功用，但愛會繼續增長。第 8 節說：**愛是永不止息...**。我們永遠不會停止愛神、和彼此相愛。因此第 13 節說：**如今常存的有信，有望，有愛；這三樣，其中最大的是愛**。在天上，不再需要信心，因為我們將親眼看見神；盼望也不再需要，因為我們所盼望的一切——與神永遠同在——都已經完全實現。但愛會延續到永恆。既然今世的一切終於會消失，我們就應該用屬天的眼光來過地上的生活。不要被眼前的事物捆住。下一代 iPhone、最新潮流、連續劇都會過去。不要試著在地上建造自己的天堂。要專注在永恆的事物上。問問自己：你是否在不斷培養對弟兄姐妹的愛？你將與他們一起度過永恆。如果你現在無法忍受教會中的某位信徒，將來

如何在天上與他永遠相處？要及早化解衝突。不要等對方先向你道歉——那可能遙遙無期。你可以求神給你更多的愛，主動踏出和好的第一步。讓神的甜美洗去心中的苦毒。我們對信徒的愛中應該不斷成長，對神的愛也要不斷成長。如果你現在不愛神，將來如何享受祂的同在？那會像一段永無止境的痛苦婚姻。這真是你想去的天堂嗎？若不是，就要現在開始操練愛神。從人的角度來看，愛神就像愛你的配偶、家人和朋友。蓋瑞·查普曼博士 (Dr. Gary Chapman) 的《五種愛的語言》可以幫助我們學習愛神：(1) 肯定的言語——開聲讚美神，告訴祂祂是奇妙、全能、充滿忍耐、溫柔的。(2) 精心的時刻——每天抽時間讀經、禱告。禱告時不只提出你的要求，也要感謝祂的看顧，當聖靈顯明你的罪時求神赦免。(3) 送禮物——可以是金錢奉獻，也可以是唱詩讚美神。(4) 服務——用你的時間、才幹和資源服事人，就等同於服事神。(5) 身體接觸——我們不能觸摸看不見的神，但可以在靈裡與祂互動，向祂表達愛。當我們讓愛流動，愛便會成長。

結論 CONCLUSION

愛不能只停留在感覺上。愛必須付諸行動。我們的愛是有限的，但耶穌向我們展示真正無條件的愛。當我們仍然迷失在罪中的時候，祂為我們捨身在十字架上。祂的死不只是激勵人的榜樣——祂的赦免從內到外改變我們。只有當我們從祂得到新生命，我們才能像耶穌那樣去愛。如此，我們願意付上代價；縱使不被接受，我們仍願意付出；雖然需要犧牲，我們仍願意服事。最重要的是，讓人從我們身上看見耶穌。基督徒樂團 Casting Crowns 的詩歌只為耶穌《Only Jesus》完美地表達了這一點。歌詞的一部分說：「所有建立的王國、所有贏得的獎座，最終都會化為塵土。因為最關鍵的是：我是否活出真理，使我所愛的人看見？我的生命是否證明，只有一位永垂不朽的主？我不想留下自己的名聲，我不在乎人們是否記得我——只希望他們記得耶穌。我只能活一次，就讓我的每一秒都指向祂——只為耶穌。」當主拯救我們時，祂不是呼召我們去做平凡的事。祂呼召我們，並賜下能力去做不平凡之事。最終，只有一件真正重要的事——人們是否從我們的生命與愛中看見耶穌。其他一切都會消失，但因著祂名所顯示的愛，將會持續到永恆。