



How to Have Excellent Relationships

1 Corinthians 13:1-13



I. True love ensures that we truly serve others vv. 1-3.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.



II. True love prioritizes the needs and feelings of others vv. 4-7.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things



III. True love endures even after meaningful service ceases v. 8-13

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part & we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.



III. True love endures even after meaningful service ceases v. 8-13

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.



III. True love endures even after meaningful service ceases v. 8-13

13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



Motivation: We Know God's Character

1st John 4:7-8.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Motivation: Loving when it is hard to love follows Christ's Example. 1 Corinthians 11:1

11 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.



Motivation 3: Loving when it is hard to love shows the gospel.
Romans 5:8

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

