

The Main Thing

I Corinthians 13

“The main thing is that the main thing **REMAIN** the main thing.”

Notice the context because context is king. Any text without the context can become a pretext.

I Cor. 12:31

I Cor. 13:1-3—Love should be priority #1 (the main thing) in the light of its **EFFECT**.

Vs. 1—Without love I **ACCOMPLISH** nothing.

With love I accomplish the will and work of God.

Vs. 2—Without love I **AM** nothing.

With love I am a follower of Jesus.

Vs. 3—Without love I **PROFIT** nothing.

With love I will be rewarded.

Mark 10:28-31

II Corinthians 5:10-11 and 14-15

I Cor. 13:4-8—Love should be priority #1 (the main thing) in the light of its **CHARACTER** (Christ’s character).

God is Love—I John 4:7-8

Christ is God—John 1:1, 14

Vs. 4a—suffers long and is kind... See Luke 23:34

Vs. 4b—envies not.... See Philippians 2:3-8

Vs. 5-6—Does not... See Luke 4:3-13

Vs. 7-8a—Bears, believes, hopes, endures... See Hebrews 12:1-3

I Cor. 13:8b-13—Love should be priority #1 (the main thing) in the light of its **DURATION**.

Vs. 8b-10—Gifts will go but love will stay.

Vs. 11-12—Maturity is measured in love.

Vs. 13—Love remains the greatest.... The **MAIN THING**. Matthew 22:36-40

John Wesley often quoted the church father Saint Augustine...

"In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty and in all things charity."