



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 36 Building Up a Love that Lasts
By Pastor Jody May 02/08/2026

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense – “God’s Wisdom over man’s pride through a Flawed Church.”

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 ESV

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 and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 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.

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

Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”

People – “Thanks be to God.”

Pray

Illustration

Sometimes, and parents you will know this better today than your kids, but your kids will come to know this in the years to come, that some lessons are easy to learn, some are more difficult and require more direction and patience, and then sometimes in loving your children you abandon the niceties and apply tough love.

Driving, Chores, Lifestyle Choices.

The Lord moves in our lives in same ways.

Some things He doesn’t have to do much coaxing. (Marriage)

Some things He does a little more behavioral directing. (Christian Disciplines)

Then some things he goes directly to applying the boot of correction. (Blind Disobedience)



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So, what Paul is hinting at today is that as we embrace **Agapē love**, as we surrender to this **Agapē love**, as we start to believe that we are to practice **Agapē love** with others, Paul is like you have to make the conscious effort to **Put AWAY the Childish Desires** of your spiritual youth.

MP:

Agapē Love calls for the Putting Down of Childish Ways.

So today I just want to walk us through the last part of this beautiful chapter and open up the blessings of **Agapē love** in light of the age that is still to come; the fact that it is the most durable and longest-lasting element in and outside this Universe. Something so wonderful demands that we get over ourselves and act in a manner worthy of an Image Bearer. First, we will look at the **Permanence** of **Agapē love**, as in Paul literally tells us about the eternal and finality of this great thing. Secondly, we will explore the **Parenting** of **Agapē love** or how it shapes us to be conformed into the image of our Lord. Then lastly, the **Primacy** of **Agapē love** or how it is the *Top Dog* in the Kingdom of God; it is the greatest of all the great things you receive as Children of God.

1. The Permanence of Agapē love.

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 and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

This **Agapē love** will never end. Actually, the word in the Greek is πίπτω (*piptō*); vb. **to fall away**.¹ And here in the text we also find the only place in Paul's writing where he uses this adv/quantifier for something; οὐδέποτε (*oudepote*): adv. **meaning NEVER**.² Paul is like me he *never uses the word never* except for this 1 instance in all his letters, which gives this phrase a very strong meaning. As love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things, (7) as in it *believes* all that the Gospel is, it also will keep on producing those characteristics of the Gospel; those

¹ πίπτω (*piptō*); ἐκπίπτω (*ekpiptō*); παραπίπτω (*parapiptō*). vb. **to fall away**. Referring literally to physically falling or figuratively to indicate abandoning beliefs or commitments. Michael R. Jones, "Apostasy," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

² 4030 οὐδέποτε (*oudepote*): adv.; ≡ Str 3763—LN 67.10 **never** (Mt 7:23; 9:33; 26:33; Mk 2:12; Lk 15:29; Jn 7:46; Ac 10:14; 1Co 13:8; Heb 10:1, 11)² James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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traits that exist in **Agapē love**, they will **NEVER FALL AWAY** from you. This is what Love will look like for you in the age to come after Christ's return. That's the implication of v.10 **when the perfect comes**, that is the new age, the age of reckoning, the age of fulfillment, the glorious second coming!

Family, I don't know of anything else in the universe that God has put this type of guarantee on. The Sun, the stars, and all the galaxies science tells us will eventually grow cold, but God's Word identifies something that never will. Fusion, that is how suns produce their energy, and according to the law of thermodynamics, it states though that after the release of energy, entropy will finally take place. Energy after heat production fades it can't be reproduced, you can only release what is found in the physical universe, but you can't create more energy. BUT this verb of **Agapē love** that is described as **never falling away**, its source is not physical Fission/Fusion but a Spiritual Unbreakable Connection to God's commitment with His people fueled by the will of the Father. Family, here's the glorious truth about **Agapē love**: what God has can never go dark, what God gives can never run out, what God says will always come true! You and I will always be benefitting from the **Agapē love** of God! God's commitment to us will outshine the stars.

So, Chaucer (14th century poet) **was not correct** when he said, "*all good things come to an end*" because **Agapē love** is an eternal love that is *the best of all good things*, and it will never have an ending. BUT Paul says there are some other good things that will. As for prophecies (divinely inspired utterances), the revealing of God's will; things that do not contradict an Apostle's teaching but that which clarifies and solidifies it, they WILL pass away. As for knowledge, the accumulation of what we learn about God, it too will pass away. Ok so we know we are not walking around in Heaven with Dementia/Amnesia, so what does that mean?

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

It just means that right now we have partial understanding not a full one, **it's only in part**. Prophecy is the revealing of unseen and unknowable things and Knowledge is an incomplete knowing of an uncomprehensible God. This all points to the day that in eternity the things that were hidden are now revealed and the



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knowledge we have on how things work all will be clarified and added to. The **perfect that comes**, τέλειος (*teleios*). adj. **perfect, mature, complete, initiated, fully developed.**³ *Perfect here simply means that the tank of your mind hits the full mark.* Paul is looking towards the final consummation of all that will happen at the return of Christ. We will know fully the things about God, because we will experience the fullness of what those things are. You should also know that does not mean there will not be more to learn (The tank gets bigger), it just means the knowledge accumulated up until that point in time, will be brought in full like a harvest.

As for tongues there in v. 8 it just says they will cease. The gift that revealed to some and kept secrets from others, there won't be a need for it in heaven all is revealed and most likely all speak the same language. The thing that the boastful Corinthians were trying to make "the thing" to do as Christians is the thing that will not be present in eternity. If we have learned anything in the book of Corinthians is that what man calls wise God calls foolishness.

For the Christian what does that mean now about the future we know that is coming and the reality that only one thing, **Agapē love**, will truly remain. Well, I don't think it ever means to stop trying to learn or grow in your knowledge, that's a blessing, that reveals God's glory, that births new affections in your heart, and you need that to live your life. It does mean though, that if you use your gifts to boost your self-esteem, if you use what you can do well only for the good of yourself, if you use that which just comes natural to you and believe your more special than others, you have fallen into the Corinthian trap. Your wisdom is actually foolishness, and it won't even matter in the end when you fully understand perhaps regretfully that life was not to be focused on you but others. HCC let's put away our childish desires to be valued, vindicated, and valiant, but please BE HUMBLE in all you say and do for only Love will remain!

2. The Parenting of Agapē love.

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

³ τέλειος (*teleios*). adj. **perfect, mature, complete, initiated, fully developed.** *Describes something complete, mature believers, and the perfection of God.*³ Adriani Milli Rodrigues, "[Perfection](#)," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).



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mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Now point two is really another explanation of point 1. Paul is just bringing in a personal example to talk about the permanence of **Agapē love**, the *Never Falling Away*, by comparing it with childhood. What gives you the clue is something that is actually in the Greek, it is the words he uses for “gave up” there at the end of v.11 - καταργέομαι (*katargeomai*), **put an end to**, cause to come to an end (1Co 6:13);⁴ It is the same word used at the end of v.10 for **pass away**, and that word when used by Paul means when Jesus finally returns; Paul is thinking eschatologically when he uses that word.

Paul is saying we all have childish ways, ways that we should move on from, ways that seem right but ways that we should really do without. When we choose to embrace the Gospel in its’ fullness now, that means **Agapē love** will cause us to start putting down that which can make us seem childish. Some we won’t be able to help, but the process of becoming a man or woman, an adult in Christ, is a sanctifying process. It doesn’t happen overnight, and many times we need help, like that as a parent would give, to get this growth in maturity rolling. Well, who is helping us in this process family?

Ephesians 4:5b

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

The fact that when you receive **Agapē love** it means that the Father has poured out His commitment in/to/for you. We typically use the word Father for God, because Jesus taught us that is what you call that particular person of the Godhead, you call Him *Abba; Father* ([Mat 6:5-15](#)). Of course, to us that means different things, but many times we just think that means we can go to Him with our requests because we know what we need. It’s like going to dad and asking Him for the keys to the car when we want freedom to go and do what we want.

⁴ 2934 καταργέομαι (*katargeomai*), καταργέω (*katargeō*): vb.; ≡ Str 2673; TDNT 1.452—1. LN 13.100 **put an end to**, cause to come to an end (1Co 6:13);⁴ James Swanson, [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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When in reality, we know not what to ask for ([Rom 8:26-27](#)), but God knows exactly how to respond to us for He has chosen to love us. **Not waiting to have a relationship with us until we grow up, but to relate to us in the growing!** For how will we know Him face to face as Paul said (12)? Scripture promises us, we will know Him as we are fully known by Him! That comes from experiential knowledge guys not a theoretical distant relating like pen pals ([Deism](#)). It means when I get to heaven the parenting provided by Gods' **Agapē love**, His continual commitment to conforming me into the image of the firstborn ([Rom 8:29](#)), means I will have a knowledge that is personal not theoretical about God. **I WILL know Him as Father!**

We parent our children the same way, with a committed love, why should we believe, it would be different for us? All of us in here have had those times in our kids lives where we moved them, from bottles to solid food, from toys to books, from milk to meat, and every time just when the child thinks they have figured it out, we go and change it up again. We change it up again because we are committed to raising them into adulthood! **(example of how God moves us from one stage to another)**

Parenting by the giver of **Agapē love** calls for us to recognize that we cannot stay the same, He is changing us, I am expected to grow up and so are you, my question is though are you fighting that family? I know it is fun being a kid with no concerns or responsibilities, but I know it is much more fulfilling to be growing into adulthood and understand the plans of God and join Him in His mission. Where are you with that?

Are you drinking milk from a bottle still? Are you reaching out to God only when life makes you upset, or have you figured out yet that what you need is a total 24 hour a day surrender to His parenting? Come join the rest of the family at the sibling tables and let's learn from God together and let's decipher how we can do His will together, so that when we meet the rest of the family one day we will hear, "well done my good and faithful servant", I WANT to KNOW God when I get there, how about you?

3. The Primacy of Agapē love.

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



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So, what is going to make it to the end? If not the gifts we use now, then what? What will be taken into the afterlife or perhaps we should say the fulfilled life? I mean if we all have what we need, and we all know what there is to know, then what else is left?

Paul says you still have faith, you still have hope, and of course you will have love. But the greatest of these is love!

Hebrews 11:1 ESV

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

So, when we get to heaven it sounds like you don't need faith or hope, the reality of it has been received. While I may not have to have blind faith anymore, by which we lived our lives here on earth, it sounds like I got something better. It sounds like I have been given **assurance** not by what I can't see but by what **I DO see!** That doesn't make it less of a faith, it just makes it stronger/realized belief! I can see the forces of heaven, I see from where the river of life flows from, I hear the voices of Cherubim/Seraphim in eternal song, I hear the eternal praise of the elders around the throne, I heard read my name in the book of life, and I laid my hands on the one that holds my faith - my Lord! My faith was always there but now it is simply in what I can experience in real time! My faith has now been fully developed.

Do I still need hope, well what is hope?

Romans 8:24 ESV

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

I wanted to share with you this verse because you may think it is a contradiction to what Paul is saying here. That verse in context is merely hope for redeemed bodies and a redeemed creation, that means perfectness or brand new ([Rom 8:18-25](#)). Yes, that Hope will be fulfilled in the age to come. This Hope here in v.13, is not about redemption but is about glorification, it is about what is to be achieved in the new heavens it is about bringing glory to Christ in a new time, it is not Hope in a one day to come but it is Hope in the New day you are living in the



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future age! Let me put it this way, it is a Hope that is never misplaced, will always happen, because you won't make wrong assumptions anymore neither will you be disappointed by God's plans.

Faith goes on but it is in what you see, Hope goes on for it is in better tomorrows, but Love is the GREATEST! Because these now 'in full' and perfected qualities of Faith and Hope is what Love is built on. Love from us grows towards God because we live in full of the blessings of what we see, and Love grows forever in what we can do for him and each other. LOVE will be greater still than what we know now, Love will be there to bring us into full maturity, and it is this love that will NEVER fall away from us, so please HCC let us NOW put away our childishness family and let us pursue God in all sincerity and humility. **(Illustration of Jonathan Edwards and his letters to his wife if time permits)**

[CALL TO OBEY]

- **Repent from self-centered pursuits of Righteousness** – Any revelation we learn from the Word of God is to be used, practiced, and a benefit to the people of God.

“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.” **1 Cor 13:2 ESV**

Confess any use of gifts (knowledge, speech, service) to be seen, applauded, or validated. Ask the Lord to re-aim your gifting toward the good of others and the glory of Christ.

- **Determine to do one meaningful act of love that no one but God will notice.** - (give, serve, encourage anonymously). Let love—not visibility—govern your obedience.

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” – **Mat 6:3-4 ESV**

When we go to bed Christian we are to go to be tired, and at the end of the week when you are prepared to sabbath, ask yourself who, outside yourself and immediate family, did you love with the **Agapē love** of God?



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- **Put away childish ways and pursue maturity in love.** - Identify one childish habit (needing the last word, keeping score, touchiness, impatience, irritability, demanding of rights, complaining) and lay it down before God; tell a trusted brother/sister for accountability.

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” **Eph 4:15 ESV**

Growing into Christ means you will need to rely on **Agapē love** from others, you WILL need their patience so you WILL need to ask for it.

MP:

Agapē Love calls for the Putting Down of Childish Ways.

May we all grow into maturity this year HCC, may we all come to not just know the benefits or receiving **Agapē love** but come to know the blessings of giving it to others. And through the displaying of **Agapē love** may we make His name known in our community!

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Jesus in His life displayed for us what does it look like when Faith, Hope, and Love in the unseen is just as real as Faith, Hope, and Love in the seen. Jesus practiced a perfect/full faith among His siblings, His earthly family, us, so that His family, may experience a perfect love with Him in eternity. By His efforts we will



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be rewarded His prize, Praise be to our King who loved perfectly, living out true ***Agapē*** love.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. Jesus loved us with a true ***Agapē*** love and in return we rewarded Him with a treasonous betrayal, that put Him on the Cross meant for us. The blood that never faltered in commitment, was given freely for us, so that we too may become like Him. His work will bring us home family and His blood will make us perfect like Him, growing us into full mature image bearing people of God. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – “**Christians, what do we believe?**” Congregation – recites:

The Baptist Catechism, Question #41

Question: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

Answer: At the resurrection believers, being raised up in glory,¹ shall be openly acknowledged, and acquitted in the day of judgment,² and made perfectly blessed, both in soul and body, in the full enjoyment of God³ to all eternity.⁴ ¹ 1 Corinthians 15:43; ² Matthew 25:23; Matthew 10:32; ³ 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 13:12; ⁴ 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

[OFFERING+LAST SONG] ***“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”***

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that parents us with ***Agapē*** love, gently yet steadfastly conforming us into the image of His firstborn.

Go in the name of the Son, that saves us through ***Agapē*** love, laying down His rights and embracing the desperate needs of His people.



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Go in the name of and power of the HS, that leads us through ***Agapē love***, showing us where we need to put down our childish ways. Now go and share ***Agapē love*** with a world that desperately needs it.

[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]

- 1) Love's Permanence: Paul says, "Love never ends," while gifts and partial knowledge pass away. Where do we tend to prize temporary things over lasting love, and what would repentance and reordering look like this week?
- 2) The Partial and the Perfect: How does acknowledging that we "know in part" cultivate humility in doctrinal discussions and ministry practice? Share a recent situation where humility in partial knowledge preserved unity.
- 3) Maturity in Love: Paul contrasts childish ways with mature love. Identify one "childish" pattern (self-centeredness, showiness, thin skin) the Spirit is exposing in you. What concrete, loving replacement will you practice?
- 4) From Dim to Face to Face: How does the hope of seeing Christ "face to face" alter the way you handle present ambiguities, disappointments, or conflicts? What habit can help you live with patient hope (e.g., prayer, Scripture meditation, peacemaking)?
- 5) The Greatest of These: Faith, hope, and love abide—but love is greatest. In our church or group, what would it look like to measure health by love (1 Cor 13:4–7) rather than by gifts, programs, or visibility? Choose one shared action to practice this month.

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