

EPISODE NO. 328

1 Cor. 12:31b; 13:1-13

Love

Paul wrote these words: 12:31b I will now show you the best way of all:

13:1 Even if I speak with human languages or the language of angels, but I do not have loving concern, I have only become like the noisy sound of a gong or the crashing sound from cymbals. 2 I may have the ability to prophesy, to know all secrets, to possess all knowledge, and to have the kind of faith which can move mountains, but if I don't have concern for others, then I am nothing. 3 I could give away everything I own and sacrifice my body, so that I could brag about it, but if I did not have love, I have gained nothing.

4 A loving person

is patient;

is kind;

is not jealous;

is not boastful;

is not proud;

5 is not rude;

is not interested only in himself;

is even-tempered;

does not hold grudges;

6 is not happy when someone else does wrong;

is happy when truth wins;

7 never quits;

always trusts;

always hopes for the best;

always keeps on going.

8 Love lasts forever. There are such things as prophecies, but they will disappear. There are such things as inspired languages, but they will stop. There is such a thing as knowledge from God, but it will disappear. 9 We only know portions of things from God. We prophesy in parts, 10 but when that which is complete comes, the parts will disappear.

11 When I was a small child, I used to talk about the things that a small child would talk about. I used to think and reason as a child did, but now that I have become an adult, I have put aside the ways of children. 12 At this time, we see only a blurred image in the metal mirror. At the time of maturity, we will see plainly — as one person looking at another's face. Now I know things only partially, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me completely.

13 Now these three things last: faith, hope, and love — but the most important of these is love.