The Value Of Love
1 Cor. 13:1-13

Introduction:
A. The subject of love needs serious study.
   1. Because it is misunderstood and abused.
      a. Three words for love: Agape, Philos, Eros.
      b. Expressed in more than quite whining tones.
      c. Fornication in the name of “making love.” (Eph. 5:2,3)
   2. Because it must be responsibly demonstrated.
      a. Show love for God by keeping commandments. (1 John 5:3).
      b. Show love for children of God in same way. (1 John 5:2)
   3. Because it’s importance is both minimized and exaggerated.
      a. Preacher prayed: “We know that love more important than being right.
      b. Others think any demonstration of love a sign of weakness.
   4. Because it is an age-long problem.
      a. Two churches in Revelation:
         (1) Ephesus — Strong in doctrine but weak in love. (Rev. 2:2-5).
         (2) Thyatira — Strong in love weak in doctrine. (Rev. 2:18-19-21).
      b. Church at Corinth: Spiritual gifts without love.
B. The value of love taught from three viewpoints in our text:

Discussion:
I. The Comparative Value Of Love.
   A. Powerful gifts nothing without love. (vv. 1,2).
   B. Liberal benevolence nothing without love. (v. 3).
   C. Extreme sacrifice nothing without love. (v. 3).

II. The Practical Value Of Love.
   A. "Suffers long” (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Pet. 4:8; 2 Tim. 2:24).
   B. "Kind” (cf. Eph. 4:32).
   C. "Does not Envy.”
   D. “Does not parade itself.” (does not show off).
   E. "Is not puffed up.” (Cf. 1 Cor. 4:6,18,19; 8:1).
   F. "Does not behave rudely. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:8).
   G. "Does seek its own.”
   H. "Is not provoked.” (indignant but not exasperated)
   I. "Thinks no evil.” (Marg. Keeps no account of evil.)
   J. "Does not rejoice iniquity, but rejoices in truth.”
   K. "Bears all Things”.
   L. "Believes all things.” (Opposite to believing worst of people)
   M. "Hopes all things.” (Opposite of dark and gloomy view of people).

III. The Lasting Value of Love.
   A. It will outlast spiritual gifts. (vv. 8-12).
   B. It will outlast even faith and hope.

Conclusion:
A. “If you love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15).
B. Be strong in doctrine and in love.