



A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

ORDER IN WORSHIP: STRUCTURE

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

THE EARLY CHURCH SOCIAL PROJECT

- 1.) Multiethnic
- 2.) Committed to the poor
- 3.) Sexual counter culture
- 4.) Sanctity of life
- 5.) Non-Retaliatory

Larry Hurtado *“Why on Earth Did Anyone Become a Christian in the First Three Centuries?”*



But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. *See, they say, how they (the Christians) love one another, for themselves (the pagans) are animated by mutual hatred; how they (the Christians) are ready even to die for one another, for they themselves (the pagans) will sooner put one another to death.*

Tertullian "Apology"



The Church Community

No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. (10:24)

Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God (10:32)

In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you... (11:17-18)

³³So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. (11:33)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (12:7)

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. (12:12)



LOVE IS ESSENTIAL

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ^{NIV}

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, **I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.** 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, **I am nothing.** 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, **I gain nothing.**

LOVE IS EFFECTUAL

1 Corinthians 13:4-7^{NIV}

4 Love is **patient**, love is **kind**. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always **protects**, always **trusts**, always **hopes**, always **perseveres**.

LOVE IS ETERNAL

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 ^{NIV}

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, **they will cease**; where there are tongues, **they will be stilled**; where there is knowledge, **it will pass away.** 9 For we know **in part** and we prophesy **in part**, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; **then we shall see face to face.** Now I know in part; then **I shall know fully**, even as I am fully known. 13 And now **these three remain**: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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Love is ESSENTIAL

If I ...

Possessed a superior speaking gift...

Had superior insight or superior faith...

Displayed superior generosity or sacrifice

BUT DIDN'T LOVE ...

I would just be an annoying noise

I would be nothing

I would gain nothing



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LOVE - **Agape**

Definition – To serve a person for their good and intrinsic value, not for what the person brings you.

Opposite – Fear: self-protection and abusing people.

Counterfeit – Selfish affection. Rescuing someone but really rescuing self. Attracted not to a person, but to how this person's love makes you feel about yourself.



Opposite of Loving Church Environment

Authoritarian Leadership

Isolation

Manipulative Teachings

Lack of Biblical Knowledge

Crisis or Vulnerability

Cultural Expectations

Lack of Transparency

Groupthink



Qualities Of Love:

Patient
Kind
Content
Humble
Honoring
Selfless
Forgiving
Truthful

1 Corinthians 13:4-6^{NIV}

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Photos of the church doing what the church does – loving, caring, supporting, encouraging,



Romans 15:7 ESV

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

