

1 Corinthians 11

1. Does God control His children like Satan and his demons control people?

-No.

-God waits for us to freely choose to give Him control.

2. How could any of the Christians in Corinth curse Jesus, yet say that they were speaking by the Holy Spirit?

-One answer is that these people were not Christians, but were taking part in the worship in the church.

-The other answer is that these people were Christians, but were deceived by Satan.

3. Is it possible for Christians to be deceived by Satan?

-Yes.

-Satan and his demons work hard trying to deceive Christians.

4. Because Satan and his demons do not want us to worship God, what do they try to do?

-They try to defile our worship.

5. Because Satan and his demons know that our spiritual gifts are very important, what do they try to do?

-They try to pervert the gifts that God has given us.

6. Why has the Lord Jesus given spiritual gifts to every Christian?

-To help us all to grow in our belief in Christ.

-To help us all to reach out to the lost.

-To help us all to be a strong part of the family of Christ.

7. Regarding spiritual gifts, how does Satan try to divide the family of Christ?

-By causing us to misunderstand why God has given these spiritual gifts to us.

8. Why did God give all of us different gifts?

-For the common good, so that we could serve God and serve others.

9. What are the two groups of spiritual gifts?

-The first group are permanent gifts which God gives to all Christians.

-The second group are temporary gifts which God gave to the apostles and a few others to begin His church.

10. Why did God use temporary gifts to begin His church?

-Because the Bible was not yet complete, and God wanted the world to know that the teaching and the miracles of the apostles were from God Himself.

11. Do we Christians choose our spiritual gifts?

-No.

-God alone decides our spiritual gifts which He gives us.

12. Why should we not search for other spiritual gifts?

-Because God has already given to all Christians the gifts that He has planned for them.

-Because God has already given to all Christians the gifts

which will work best for God's kingdom.

12. What is the most excellent way that we should desire?

-That all Christians would be content with that which God has given us and be one family in Christ, having love for one another.

-In the last lesson, we learned that God alone chooses the spiritual gifts that He gives us, and that He gives us all different gifts.

-In the last verse of the previous lesson, God and Paul teach us to desire the greater gifts or the most excellent way.

-We also learned that the greater gifts or most excellent way is to be content with that which God has given us and be one family in Christ, having love for one another.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:1

1-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.

-As there is nothing in the Bible that teaches us that the angels have a different language, God through Paul is simply teaching us that even if we could speak all languages, but not have love, we are nothing.

-In the time of the Bible, pagans would worship idols by shouting meaningless noises, beating a gong, or by clanging a cymbal.

-To be able to speak all languages, but not having love is like pagan worship.

-Sometimes children bang on things just to make noise.

-Do they teach anyone anything?
-No.

-Do they accomplish anything?
-No.

-Why does God through Paul mention the gift of speaking in tongues?

-Because the Corinthian Christians exalted this gift above all of the other gifts.

-If we do not have love for others, of what use is speaking in tongues?

-It is useless.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:2

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.

-As we have learned, the gift of prophecy is to teach the truths of God.

-If we are teaching the truths of God to other people, but do not have love for them, we are nothing.

-If we know all mysteries that God had previously hidden and all knowledge, but do not have love, we are nothing.

-If we have the faith to believe in the power of God, but do not have love, we are nothing.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:3

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.

-Even if we would give all of our possessions to the poor, but not have love, we would be nothing.

-Even if we would be burned alive, but do not have love, we would be nothing.

-Now, God through Paul teaches us about true love.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:4

4-Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

-The love of God is patient while people are not very patient.

-God is more patient than anyone, not immediately punishing people for their sins, as He wants to save all people.

-The love of God is kind while people are not always kind.

-God is more kind than anyone, and His kindness leads us to repentance.

-The love of God does not envy while people are jealous of much and envy much.

-God is completely without jealousy, but the jealousy of people not only wants what others have, but also desires to take away what others have.

-The love of God does not boast while people boast all the time.

-Christ humbled Himself before people, yet when people boast, they put themselves over others and God.

-The love of God is not proud while people have much difficulty not to be proud.

-Why are we proud when all that we have which is good is from God alone?

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:5

5-[Love] does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

-The love of God does not dishonor us while people dishonor others with our speech and with our actions.

-The love of God is not self-seeking while people look more to themselves than to others.

-The love of God is not easily angered while people become easily angry.

-The love of God keeps no record of wrongs while people keep wrongs in their hearts for many years.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:6

6-Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

-The love of God does not delight in evil while people love being evil to others.

-The love of God rejoices with the truth while people enjoy lying.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:7

7-[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

-The love of God always protects while people look for ways to hurt other people.

-The love of God always trusts while people believe the worst of others.

-The love of God always hopes while people become easily discouraged and lose hope.

-The love of God always perseveres while people give up when life becomes difficult.

-Does God love people because they love Him?

-No.

-God loves people even when they don't love Him.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

8-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.

-Why does love never fail?

-Because God is love, and love is God, and it is impossible for God to fail (1 John 4:8).

-For us Christians, life is love and love is life.

-The gifts of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge will end, but love will not.

-Why is love more important than the gifts of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge?

-Because love will never end.

-Because love is eternal.

-In 1 Corinthians 13:10, what does the Word of God mean when it says “completeness” or “perfection”?

-It is our eternity in heaven for all Christians.

-What does it mean that “when completeness comes, what is in part disappears”?

-We only know God partially now, but when we arrive in heaven, we will know God completely.

-Here on earth, God has given us spiritual gifts, but when we arrive in heaven, the spiritual gifts will no longer be necessary.

-Why will spiritual gifts no longer be necessary in heaven?

-Because our belief in God will be complete.

-Here on earth, God has given us spiritual gifts to grow in our belief in Christ, but in heaven, we will know Christ completely.

-Here on earth, God has given us spiritual gifts to help us to reach out to the lost, but in heaven, there will be no lost.

-Here on earth, God has given us spiritual gifts to help us to be a strong part of the family of Christ, but in heaven, we will be completely a part of the family of Christ.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:11-12

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.

-What are the two examples that God and Paul give us to teach us the difference between the present and the future?

-One is a baby compared to an adult.

-One is seeing in an unclear, metal mirror compared to seeing face to face.

-Here on earth, we are like children, but in heaven, we will be adults.

-Here on earth, we see as if looking in an unclean, metal mirror, but in heaven, we will see our God face to face.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:13

13-And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

-Even though prophecy, tongues, and knowledge will be taken away, what will remain?

-Faith, hope, and love.

-Here on earth, we need faith, hope, and love, but in heaven, we will not need faith and hope.

-Why will faith no longer be necessary in heaven?
-Because we will see the Lord Jesus with our eyes.

-Why will hope no longer be necessary in heaven?
-Because we will be with the Lord Jesus in heaven.

-Which is the greatest of faith, hope, and love?
-Love.

-Why is love the greatest?

-Because love is the foundation for all of life.

-Is the love of God and the love of people the same?
-No.

-As we have learned, the love of God is to sacrifice oneself, but the love of people is to try and gain all that we can.

-Can we Christians love like God?

-No.

-We can never love like God.

-Then how can we Christians love?

-We must allow God in us to love others through us.

-As children of Adam and Eve, we cannot love our enemies by ourselves.

-Only God in us can love our enemies through us.

-By allowing God in us to love others through us, we can be free from hate and the other sins of the flesh.

-As Romans 6:13 says, we should not offer the parts of our body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but offer ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness.

-By offering ourselves to God, God can take His love, and use His love through us to love others.

-As Christians, we can choose our own imperfect love or choose the perfect love of God.