

Love

by Noel Scott

The sermon emphasizes the importance of divine love in the Christian life, highlighting its preeminence over gifts, preaching, and knowledge.

Duration: 47:05

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 13:11-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Topics: "Christian Love", "Faith And Hope"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of love and its characteristics. Love is described as being patient and not seeking its own way. The preacher shares personal anecdotes to illustrate the power of love in difficult situations. The sermon concludes with a reminder to prioritize faith, hope, and love, with love being the greatest of all.

Transcript

It's been good to be here at Dayton, hasn't it? God's presence has been here in a gracious way, and I have felt my own heart strengthened and refreshed from sitting under the ministry of God's Word, noting the visitation of God's Spirit. I always need God's help when I try to preach, but I need Him even more today. Just sitting on one cylinder, maybe a degree or two of fever, but I really like to preach.

I know a lot of people that complain about having to preach, but I like to, when the Lord helps me. I don't know of anything I'd rather do than preach this gospel of full deliverance, and I am glad it's still the power of God and the salvation to everyone that believes it, to the dear first and also to the Greek. Now, I hope Brother Smule isn't in the congregation today.

I don't know if he is or not, but I hope he isn't, and I'll tell you why. I think the last three area conventions that I've gone to, I have felt directed to a certain line of thought. And I told him in the last convention, I said, Brother Smule, if I come back to another one, I'll just send a tape recorder and you can play it.

And of all things, if I don't feel directed back to that same line of thought today, that I feel it's of God, I don't think I'm preaching it because it happens to be a favorite line of truth, but it might be that the Lord lays it on our heart because it's a needed line of truth. And I don't always want to just hear what I like to hear, but I want to hear what I need to hear. And may God grant that we'll hear what we need to hear this afternoon.

I'm reading from the book of 1 Corinthians, and now you know which chapter, don't you? Chapter 13. I would like to read the 13 verses of this scripture for our meditation in this Bible hour. You're going to have to listen fast this afternoon.

We got out of service late this morning, and we want to try to get you back on schedule. So you pray for us. If you'll pray enough, I think the Lord will help us to get through in 30 minutes.

1 Corinthians 13, though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, with your permission I'm going to read the word charity as love, because it is indeed divine love. I am become as a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal, and though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mystery and all knowledge, and though I have all faith so that I can remove mountains and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind. Love envieth not. Love lonneth not itself, is not toughed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth. Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth, but whether there be prophecies they shall fail, whether there be tongues they shall cease, whether there be knowledge it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I think as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things. But now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face.

Now I know in part, but then till I know, even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love. Shall we pray? Our loving Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy presence that has been here in every service thus far.

Now as we're coming down toward the conclusion of these series of services, we pray that Thou wilt be pleased to continue to minister to us, and give us, O Lord, that help and grace that You know that each of us have need. Give us that, Lord, that'll stand us in good stead when we come down from the mountain top, as it were, to minister to those that are in the valley below. Equip us, Lord, by Thy Spirit for what Thou dost know that we have to do, and for all that You do, we'll give Thee the praise, for we ask it in Jesus' name and for His glory.

Amen. Without choosing a single verse of Scripture for a text today, I would like to dwell upon the subject of divine love. Surely this is a matter of supreme importance.

One writer called it the greatest thing in the world. John Wesley said, If after being sanctified we seek for anything else but more of love, we seek a myth. Jesus said, By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another.

And it was said concerning the disciples, Behold how they love one another. The first message to the backsliding church of Ephesus was, Thou hast lost thy first love. Most all of the failures of human life, if we would refer to the works of the flesh that are given back there in Galatians chapter 5, we find that there are a number of failures listed.

There are four failures of love for oneself that pertain to the sexual area. Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness. There are two that refer to unlawful relations with the spirit world, idolatry and witchcraft.

And there are two that deal with drunkenness and revelry. But most of the works of the flesh center in failures of divine love, failures of brotherly love. Beloved, if we really have the goods in our heart, it will show in the way that we treat one another and the way that we love one another.

First of all, by way of introduction this afternoon, I believe it's significant where this chapter appears in the books of Holy Writ. That is, I believe it's significant that it appears in the books of the Corinthians. That is, instead of the books of the Philippians or the Ephesians or the Colossians, or some other book that might be mission.

Brother Scott, why do you feel that it's significant that it appears in the book of Corinthians? Well, the main reason I feel that way is because that at Corinth, in the church at Corinth, they had problems. And if you have any problems at all in your church, you surely need a great deal of this quantity called divine love. For love is the way that you and I are to deal with the problems.

Seek the truth in love. They had a number of different kind of problems there in Corinth. One was that they were disagreed over who they wanted to be pastor of the church.

I don't suppose that's the last time that's happened. One wanted an apologist. Say he's an orator, he can really lay it on.

I'd like to hear an apologist expound the truth. I think I'd have liked to have heard him, too. Another said, I feel loyalty to Paul.

After all, he started this work. And I vote for Paul. And another said, I think we ought to get the general superintendent.

Let's have thesis come, pastor our church. And they nearly fell out with one another over who they were going to have for pastor. And Paul wrote back and said, although Paul is planted and I watered, or vice versa, it's God that gives the increase.

It's not so much who the pastor is as it is that we have God's men at God's time to fulfill God's will. We better do something other than disagree over who to have for pastor. We better seek the mind of God till he reveals his faith and shows us his will.

But they had other problems at Corinth. One is that they were going, brethren, were going to law against one another. And I guess that hadn't been the last time that's happened either.

Because Paul wrote to them and said, brethren, these things ought not so to be. And that's the only conclusion I can draw for our day, too. These things ought not so to be.

He said, if you're having a problem, don't you know that the saints are going to judge the earth? Find the least worthy among you. He was able to make a settlement along those lines like me. You're going to rule the world.

If by love all men know that we are his disciples, I wonder what they know if something manifests other than love. Then another problem they had at Corinth was they were disagreeing, vying with one another

over who had the greatest spiritual gift. I remember Dr. Towne used to say he never had heard of anyone that had the gift of health.

Say, that'd be a good one to have around churches, wouldn't it? But one had this gift and another had that gift, and they were nearly falling out with one another over who was the most religious. It was Lyle Parker whom I first heard make this statement. He said there are three kinds of pride.

I'm sure there's at least that many, but he said there's at least three kinds. One is pride of faith, pride of faith. I don't see anyone here that should be bothered with that.

We all heard about the lady, didn't we, that went to her pastor to confess a sin. The pastor said, well, what sin is it you want to confess? So she said, pastor, I think I'm beautiful. Oh, he said, lady, that's not a sin, that's a mistake.

And I suppose if any of us are troubled by that kind of pride today, well, it's probably not a sin, it's probably a mistake. Good to get blessed into that, isn't it? And then he said a second kind of pride was pride of place. Have you ever been bothered by that? I remember when the Holy Ghost dug into my spinal cord, showed me that I had that kind of pride, pride of place.

You don't believe people have it sometimes. You try voting them out of that office they've helped so long and done so well at. Even if they have been a superintendent of Sunday School for 13 years, you sometimes find that there's pride of place.

But he said the third kind of pride is worst of all, worst of all, and that's pride of grace. That person that feels like they're just a little more religious than anyone else, and no one else is spiritual, no one else has any fire. Well, I've known of people running all over the country trying to find the fire, and they ought to have started a little bit in their own alder.

So they were falling out with one another over who was the most spiritual. And Paul said I want to show you something that's better than having one gift, or the other gift, or all the gifts put together, yet so I be a more excellent way, the way of divine love. Then he begins to expound in this scripture, though I have the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I am become as a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

Oh, this gets to my heart. We're going to come down off of this mountaintop tonight, and we're going back down in the valley where the needs are. We're going to need something that'll stand us in good stead should we meet the needs down below.

Now if some groups of people have made too little, too much of the gift of the Spirit, and I believe some have made too much of the gift. But I'm afraid that probably we holiness people have made too little of the gift. Paul didn't condemn them for wanting gifts.

He said have it earnestly the best gift. All right, want to have a gift of the Lord. But I do note that he divides them severally as he will, not as I will.

And I believe God does have a genuine New Testament biblical scriptural gift of tongues. I confess to you I have never personally seen it manifest. Oh, I've been in some services where they said what was the New Testament gift of tongues was manifest.

But there was something on the inside that didn't quite register that it was of that spirit. You know beloved God has given his people an option. We have no need that men critique it.

There's something, there's an inward monitor that will register as to the rightness or the wrongness of things. Even when we can't tell number one, two, three, four reasons why it isn't right, there's something on the inside that registers. Paul said let the peace of God rule in your heart.

Rather if it disturbs the peace in your soul, you better look at it pretty carefully before you press ahead. But while I have not seen personally the genuine gift of tongues manifest, I have known of what I believe to be the genuine work of the spirit manifest. My good minister friend, Brother Richard Payne, who's sitting right over here on the front row, was holding a revival meeting back in the state of Missouri, down near the little town of Seneca, Seneca, Missouri.

And attending that revival meeting was a young war bride from Germany. American soldier boy had married her in Germany and brought her back to this country. She understood very little English.

But she was attending that revival meeting with her mother-in-law. She came night after night to the meeting. One night the spirit moved upon her heart.

She went to the altar and was gloriously saved. She was soundly converted. Transformation took place in her heart.

After they were home from the service, she said to her mother-in-law, I didn't know Reverend Payne knew German. No, her mother-in-law said, as far as I know he doesn't. Ah, but she said he does.

For the whole message tonight was in high German. And I heard, and I understood, and God save my soul. Brother, we shouldn't think it a strange thing for God to change a language to get a message through to a hungry heart.

If He should stop the sun over one valley and the moon over another valley to give Joshua a little more time to win a battle, it's not any problem for Him to give a gift of time till a message of divine grace will get through to a hungry heart. Blessed be God. I submit today I, that's the genuine heartache, folks.

There's a purpose behind that. I believe all of God's gifts come for a purpose. There's nothing idle about them.

So there are the genuine gifts of the Spirit. Paul said, though I could speak in this tongue or that tongue or all the tongues, he said there's something more preeminent than the gift. I'd just be as a soundly brass or a tinkly cymbal.

Though I have the gift of prophecy or in our language we'd say though I was a gifted preacher and didn't have love, it would profit me nothing. Though I understand all mysteries. Say, wouldn't we like to have a fellow around like that? Understand all mysteries.

I used to hear one on the radio once in a while that seemed to understand all mysteries. Well, tomorrow, he would say. Well, maybe I've quit preaching and gone to meddling, but he seemed to understand all of them.

But I never heard him read the scripture and I never was convinced he understood the real mysteries that we're reading. Though I had all knowledge. My, Brother Heron here, I suppose all of us that work at Bible

schools would be fighting over who would get him on the faculty if we had someone that had all knowledge.

And though I had all faith, and God knows we would use more of that. And then he mentions good work. Though I give all my good.

My, we think we've done something when we give twenty-five, don't we? Twenty-five. Or a thousand. And I appreciate the gift that people give, but Paul said, if I gave it all and was low on this quantity called divine love, on the ledges of heaven, it wouldn't add up to anything.

Though I'd give my body to be burned, it would profit me nothing. Thus, in those two verses, Paul gives us the preeminence of divine love. It's greater than gifts.

It's greater than preaching. It's greater than knowledge and faith and works of charity and even martyrdom. But if divine love is thus so important, it ought to interest you and I to know what it is and to be sure that we have that within our hearts.

In these next three or four verses, Paul gives us the properties of divine love. There are fourteen properties of divine love given. Seven of them are positive.

Seven of them are negative. Seven of them tell us what love does not do. Seven of them tell us what love does.

For every negative, there's a positive. For every positive, there's a negative. And I believe if we measure to the stature of the fullness of Jesus Christ, there'll be a balance in our lives.

Some people's religion is all negative, what they don't do, where they don't go and what they don't participate in. But for every negative, there ought to be something positive that we do for the cause of Jesus Christ and that we are within our hearts by grace of God. And I believe what we have in these fourteen quantities, properties, is a portrait of Jesus Christ.

I don't know of anyone that reads 1 Corinthians 13 and jumps up and down and says, bless God, I don't see where I could move us. But I suspect that most of us have to stop and pray once in a while as we go through this chapter. Lord, I need help here.

Lord, give me more of this love here. I like to go through it and just kind of soak in it and let the Spirit speak to my heart. Beloved, it isn't safe for us to say, well, I'm as spiritual as so-and-so.

That might be true and we'd still miss it. The only really safe majoring stick for our experience is to let the plumb line of divine love down alongside our lives and let the blessed Holy Spirit search us and know us and let him show us where we're not plumbed with his divine love. Now, I say again, I believe this is a portrait of Jesus Christ and I don't believe any of us would profess today that we measure up in every one of these quantities to the degree that we'd like to.

Somebody has said it this way, there's only one that's altogether lovely and that's Jesus Christ. Now, I have known and do know some very lovely people and I mean that in the finest sense of the word. But if you look at anyone long enough and close enough, you'll see something in their life that you don't think is lovely.

God isn't finished with us yet. Pilate looked at Jesus just a few moments and his conclusion was, I find no fault in this man. But had Pilate looked at Jesus from that time clear down to the present, his conclusion would have to be the same today, I find no fault in this man.

And I believe it's God's will that you and I should grow up under a fullness of the stature of Jesus. Maybe we'll need to stop once in a while as we go through this and pray, Lord, give me more of this love. Let's look at just a few of these qualities, we won't have time to go through them.

First of all, love suffers long and it's kind while it suffers. Beloved, it isn't what we are when everything is going well, everyone's patting us on the back, but it's when the going gets tough and when the opposition gets thick, then is when it really shows us what we are on the inside. Paul said that this divine love suffers long and it's kind while it suffers.

Now some of us suffer long and get sour, and some people suffer long and dry. But Paul said this love suffers long and it's kind while it suffers. This is usually the first place I have to stop and pray, Lord, give me more of this love.

If any of us think we're going to be in Christian work without suffering, brother, we're in the wrong calling. It's those that you think ought to stand by you the best that can hurt you the most when they turn against you. But Paul said this love would suffer a long time and would be kind while it suffers.

Remember that person in your congregation that opposes you? That one, you know, that tries to stir up the people just before each election? Love suffers long and it's kind. I remember a revival meeting we were trying to have in our church, and I was so desperately wanting to see revival. I purposed in my heart to go to every person that I could even imagine had anything to gain.

But there was one lady that I left to last. Oh, I hated to go to her. Why did you hate to go to her? I'd been there before.

And I had gotten all these, you know, that's the way we make restitutions too, we get those easy ones out of the way. Really if you'll do the hardest one first, the doing's a lot better than that one. And actually, I waited till the last night of this meeting to go to that lady.

And she was already in the sanctuary, and I went up the aisle and sat down in the seat behind her, leaned up and said, Sister, if I've ever done anything to you that caused you to feel toward me the way other than divine love, I want to ask for forgiveness. I'm so clumsy, and I do things wrong so often, in the wrong way. I bear witness today, I hadn't consciously done something against her.

And that's about as far as I got. And she turned on me. Oh, I tell you, she turned around.

And she gave me, I started to say a piece of her mind, but she really had no piece of mind. She told me that I had worked to get her husband out of office. And going on down to the conclusion of her tirade, and she said another thing, you're so proud too.

Well, I said, Sister, I surely want you to pray for me. I want to be all God wants me to be. Brother Scott, did you feel resentment about it? She said, no.

I just felt like God put the little end of his big funnel down in my heart, and started pouring honey, sweetness, down in it. What are you talking about, Brother Scott? Love that can suffer, but be kind while it

suffers. And I believe it witnesses for Christ.

I can't get off of this particular point for a moment. Whenever I think of this scripture, I think of Judas and Jesus. Did Jesus know who would betray him? Sure he knew.

But did he treat Judas any different than he did the other disciples? No, he didn't. How do you know he didn't, Brother Scott? Because none of the other disciples suspected who it was. That'd been pretty hard on us, wouldn't it? Been pretty hard for us to have treated Judas like that.

But he treated Judas in such a way that no one ever suspected that he was the one. More of this love. Love that covers the faults of a brother.

Love that will cause us to love one another. Love, divine love, coming down from the Father. Lord, give me more of this love.

We're going to need it in the year ahead. We're going to need it in the battles ahead. But I'm glad it's for us.

James said, If any man lack faith, let him ask of God. But you can leave that word, faith, out and just draw a line in there. If any man lack, put in there whatever you need.

Let him ask of God. And give it to all men that will end up great, if not. If we need more of this love, it isn't something that's natural, it's supernatural.

It can make us what we ought to be. I wish I had more time, but our time is getting away. Let me just hit a high point or two and try to get to a conclusion.

Not only does love suffer long in its time, but love envious not. Even when they do shout more when the other fellow preaches than when I do, love envious not. Even when they do shout more when that fellow thinks it's special than when I do, love envious not.

Even when I do get voted out of my office and someone else takes it and they brag on him more than they did me, love envious not. Even when the other brother does drive in in a new car, love doesn't say, I could have one, too, if I wanted to go in debt. Love envious not.

I wish I had time to camp there a little longer, but we can't. Love on itself doesn't put itself forward. Have you noticed me? No, love doesn't do that.

One writer put it this way, love doesn't make a parade. I like that. I think I've seen parades in church, on the piano bench of the organ tune, behind the pulpit.

Love doesn't make a parade. Love is just what it is, openly, naturally, sincerely. It's not prepped up.

Say, that's good, isn't it? We've all heard the story of Uncle Buddy when he had preached a message and somebody going out said, Uncle Buddy, that's the best preaching I've ever heard. Lord, he said, help Uncle Buddy not to get toughed up. That person had seriously gone when a second came by and said, Uncle Buddy, that's the poorest excuse for preaching I've heard for a while.

Lord, he said, help Uncle Buddy not to get toughed down. There, I believe, is something stabilizing about this work of divine love. That'll bring down the high places and build up the low places and make a

highway for our God and help us to keep our even shield.

When those are against us, we won't go too low, and when they're against us, we won't go too high. It's not prepped up. Praise God.

Then, doth not behave itself unseemly. I like this. I don't think I ever read that verse, but what I think of another there in the closing part of Psalm 93, Holiness become a fine house, O Lord, forever.

Holiness is becoming. There it is. Oh, there's something beautiful, something becoming about holiness.

Doth not behave itself unseemly. Even when life isn't ready to go as quickly as we think it ought to be, love knows how to behave itself. Amen, Brother Scott.

My wife's here today. She can say amen, too. And in the business meeting at church, even when they don't recognize the superior wisdom of your suggestions and vote it down, love still knows how to behave itself.

And this next verse goes so closely with it, Teacheth not her own. There's a couple of renderings of this verse that I like to give. The real essence of pure divine love is in the selflessness of it.

Teacheth not her own. One has put it, love does not insist on having its own way. Hey, that's all right, isn't it? How would you have a church split unless somebody insisted on having their own way? You all heard about the Indian didn't you, that didn't know what an argument was? It had to be an Indian, because it couldn't have been a white man, we all know.

But the white man was explaining to the Indian about an argument, and he said, well, it's like this. This is my, I'll say this is my book, and you'll say, no, it's mine. And I'll say, no, it's mine, and we'll have an argument.

Well, the Indian said, let's have an argument. And the white man said, this is my book. And the Indian said, take it then.

Now, how do you have a falling out with someone that acts that way? How do you go about it? Love does not insist on having its own way. I heard about a church that was planning to have a new building. That's always a good time to have a falling out.

Oh, I mean a bad time, there's never a good time. But everyone was in favor of having a new building, but one old couple, when the negative vote was taken, two hands went up, they thought the old sanctuary was good enough, and they voted against it. But after all, majority rule, started on the new building.

And do you know who the first old fellow to come down and volunteer labor was? Same fellow that voted against it. None of you can support some ideas that weren't used for good, because they were taken as your idea in the first place. So you're talking about love that doesn't insist on having its own way.

Well, this would do the wholeness movement a lot of good if we could practice this classical thing of divine love. And then I want to give you one other rendering of that verse. It gets even closer to home.

That is, love doesn't insist on its right. What'd you say, Brother Scott? Love doesn't insist on its own right. I heard about a man in business meeting that stood up and said, I have my right! I came to have my right.

The older brother looked back at him and said, Jesus came to get his wrongs. Brother Scott, you think we should just let people run over? Let me tell you the happening that the Spirit of God taught this lesson to me. I was having trouble with my automobile.

I couldn't tell what brand it was, because once when I told it I was to stay all night with the dealer in town that sold that kind of automobile. So, how are you dealing with it? Well, I'll go ahead and tell you. It was an old automobile.

Having transmission trouble and it was still under warranty was back in those days when they had five-year warranty. Can you remember way back then? I hadn't bought the car new, but it was a transferable warranty which had been taken care of. And I took the car into the dealer to get it fixed.

And they told me if I bring in the service record, they could take care of it. So, since he hadn't sold the car new, I went to the neighboring dealer and got the service record and brought it in. When I took that in, he asked for something else.

I don't recall what it was, whether a transfer, something else. And I took that in and he asked me to bring something else. And about the fourth time that he asked me to bring something else, it finally began poking through my fifth skull.

This man doesn't intend to fix my car. He's just putting me off. And when I asked, when he asked for the fourth or fifth thing, I said to him, no.

I said, I won't be bringing anything else. I said, I've got everything you asked, and you haven't done what you said it would be. I said, I'll take these papers, and I said, I won't be bothering you with it anymore.

And I left. And I didn't have a shouting spell on the way home either. I was feeling pretty bad.

It was my right to have that car fixed. It said so on the paper. I was feeling pretty badly toward that dealer until I got alone with the Lord.

And I knew just as I got alone with the Lord, I knew exactly what I was going to have to do. I was going to have to go right back to that place I said I wouldn't be coming back to. Do you know we ought to learn after a while not to say what we'll do and what we won't do? Just about as soon as we'll do that, we'll have to do the very thing we said we wouldn't.

And I didn't want to go back to that place. I didn't want to. But I tell you, there's something else that I wanted more than I didn't want to go back.

I wanted God's smile on my face. And the next day I went in, walked up to the counter. They didn't even come over and wait on me for a while.

I guess they were afraid of what they might get this time. When they came and asked if they could help me, I said I didn't speak very kindly when I was here yesterday. I said I'm a preacher.

I'm a Christian. And I want to live in such a way that you'll have confidence in the religion I profess. And I want to ask you for forgiveness.

But she started backing up and taking the responsibility and the blame. I didn't let her do it. That isn't who I was.

But I tell you, I wanted to keep sweet in my soul. There's one right, beloved, that you ought to insist on. One right.

And that's the right to keep sweet no matter what happens. No matter what people do against you. You have a right to keep sweet.

An interesting sequel to that story is, praise God, praise God, an interesting sequel to that story is, they didn't fix the car, but I put 105,000 miles on that car. And I never did have any more trouble. Oh goodness, if you'll put God first and keep sweet in your soul, He'll take care of all the details of your life.

If you'll let God, let God have His wonderful way. Love doesn't insist on having its right. Glory be to God.

Hallelujah. Brother Carl Martin said, Brother Scott, take your liberty, but put it to your credit. Now, how do you do both? I'm not through, but I'm putting.

I just want to call your attention to four quantities of divine grace there in one of those last verses. Beloved, my heart is concerned that this thing we possess works well out in the everyday years of our lives. It's not what we possess, but what the people see.

But note in this verse, verse 7, beareth all things. I like to call this a quartet of divine graces. Beareth all things.

Brother Scott, what does this mean? Does it mean it endures? No, he uses that word later. But beareth all things, it comes from an old English word that means to put a roof over, or to hide from the light of the sun. Or in our language, we might say to keep confidential.

Do you know there's some things that ought never to be told, even if it's the truth? Someone says, bless God it's the truth, I'm going to tell it. You're not scriptural if you do. The Bible says whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are pure.

If there's any virtue, if there's any praise, go ahead and tell all that you want to. But make sure it meets all those criteria before you tell it. I have four brothers in the flesh, two older, two younger.

Some of them have some faults. Fortunately I escaped without any, but some of my brothers have some faults. But you're not going to hear me talking about those faults when I'm holding a meeting in your church.

Why? My brothers, you know I just think that's the way it ought to work in this church of God. They're my brothers. They used to say about my father's family, he had four brothers too, they said those Scott boys were the trolls, that if a wasp stung one of them, they'd all swell up.

I believe God wants his people to be so close, that when he has a heartache we all share the fear, and that we can rejoice in each victory of this time, oh dear. I believe that's the New Testament standard for the church. Goeth all things.

I guess I have to quit. I wanted to tell you more. Paul said there's some of these things that are passing.

Knowledge, tongue, these things are passing. But there's some things that are permanent. Now abideth faith, hope, love.

But the greatest of these is love. If you don't need any more of this quantity called divine love, would you pray for me? I want more of that love that covers, tips the roof over the faults of a brother. Love that will cause us to love one another.

Love, divine love that comes down from the Father. Lord, give me the kind that suffers long in his time. It's not toughed up, it's not expelled.

Bless you, heart. Let us turn it back to you.

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