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Loving the Lord Jesus Christ and Avoiding Anathema!

*"If any man love not the Lord Jesus
Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha."*

(1 Corinthians 16:22)

The Corinthian Conundrum

- The Problem: Sin!!!
 - Pride 4:6-8;18; 5:2; 8:1; 10:12
 - Lack of Love 1:10; 3:3; 6:1
 - Carnality and immaturity 3:1-3; 11:18-22
- Solution: Loving Correction (4:14, 21) with God's Wisdom (2:5) and Grace (16:23)
- Christian graces (13:13):
 - Faith
 - Hope
 - **LOVE**

First Words & Last Words

- 1 Cor 1:1-9
- Encouraging words which focus upon the grace and love of God
- V.1-3 Salutation: expressing positional truths of sanctification in Christ
 - V. 4 Thankful....
 - "Grace" – comprehensive: merited and unmerited; everlasting life, spiritual gifts, rewards, provision, etc.

First Words

- V. 5-6 “Enriched” – made full or spiritually prosperous. A Corinthian blessing.
 - Utterance
 - Knowledge
 - Testimony of Christ – evidence of their spiritual gifts
- V. 7 Fully enabled with spiritual gifts as a body.
 - Waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - How can this be?

First Words

- V. 8 "Blameless in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ"
 - Blameless: experientially blameless – not sinless (Luke 1:6)
 - Confirm means enabled or strengthened
 - You can expect God to enable you for a good standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ
 - How can this be?

Proverbial Statements

- Principals in general vs. absolute promises
- Paul's optimistic outlook: Gal 5:10; Phil 1:6; 2 Thess 3:4
 - Not an unconditional prediction
 - Rather, a positive expectation
- God will perform; He can be counted on to enable (strengthen) and see us through.
- We must do our part – hence the corrective nature the epistle (3:11-15; 4:15; 9:27).

Last Words

- 1 Cor 16:13-24
- V.13 Watch – stay alert (15:58; 1 Thes 5:6)
 - Stand firm in the faith – don't fall from grace.
 - Quit you – be courageous – be strong
 - Jesus' command to disciples (Matt 24:42; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:36)

The **PREEMINENCE** of LOVE

- V. 14 **LOVE** should be the motivating force for everything! (Rom 13:8-14; Col 3:14)
- The Greatest Commandment: Matt 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-37; Lev 19:18
 - Love is the very essence of who God is
 - Love is paramount to interaction with God
 - Love is central to the Mosaic Law
 - Love summarizes the Law of Christ
 - Love is the preeminent attribute of a Christian

The Loftiness of Love

- Paul explains and exemplifies the proper way
 - “Follow me” (4:16; 11:1; Phil 3:17)
- A more excellent way – Love is beyond comparison (12:31-14:1)
- The carnal way leads to destruction
- The spiritual way leads to blessing

The Motivation to Love

- **Personal Profit/Glory** (advantage/benefit/reward) is the result of love (13:1-3)
- Isn't that selfish?
 - Selfish: me at the expense of others
 - Kant: do good only for the sake of good
 - Was Jesus selfish? Heb 12:1-3; Phil 2:1-11; Matt 6:19-21
- Everything we do should be for God's Glory (10:31)
 - God is glorified when we love (Luke 6:27-38)
 - God rewards those who love him (Rom 8:28)
- If we operate in love, praise from God will be our reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ (4:5)
- God has great reward for those who love Him (2:9)

Intimacy with God

- John 14:15, 21-23
- The **manifest presence** of the Lord is ours as we keep His commandments!
- Obedience, to His Word, affords us **intimate personal fellowship** with the Father and Son!
- Intimacy right now... but **most importantly** in the coming Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ

Perfect Love

- Experiencing **intimate knowledge** of God, i.e. “knowing” God, takes time & effort (1 John 2:3)
- Love is “perfected” via obedience (1 John 2:5; 4:12, 17)
 - “Perfect” means made whole or brought to completion; brought to its intended purpose or goal
- Perfect Love’s two goals
 - Intimacy with God – giving and receiving love (1 John 2:5; 4:11-12)
 - Boldness at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 John 2:28; 4:17)

Loving the Lord Jesus Christ

- How can we perfect our love for Him?
- How can we obtain the profit love brings?
- How can we have boldness in the day of judgment?
- By **daily** focusing our hearts and minds heavenward!
- Psalm 63
 - Become enthralled with Him
 - Seek Him early and often
 - Contemplate His majesty
 - Rejoice in His goodness
 - Worship Him in spirit and truth