

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "The Way of the Spirit"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Pastor Stephen Schultze / Sunday, July 18, 2021

God has given every believer gifts through the Holy Spirit to be a **contributing member of the Body of Christ.**

- The way of the Spirit is love, not **performance**. (1 Corinthians 12:31)

1. Without Love, the most eloquent **communication is empty noise.** (v. 1)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15-16; Matthew 12:33-37; Ephesians 4:29-30

- The body of Christ should be a concert of grace—each member using their gifts to communicate love in **harmony** with the Holy Spirit. (Proverbs 25:11)

2. Without Love, the **power to know great things and do mighty acts is nothing.** (v. 2)

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23; Mark 12:29-31

- The gifts of the Spirit are given to build God's glorious church, not our **kingdom**.

3. Without Love, the most **zealous acts are empty of reward.** (v. 3)

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-24

- Employing the gifts of the Spirit without love is spiritual **mutiny**.

Conclusion:

- **Abide** in Christ, the source of love. (John 15:5)
- **Submit** to the Spirit, the way of love. (Galatians 5:25)
- **Serve** in selflessness, the practice of love. (Galatians 5:13)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

- How is love the more excellent way?
- Why does Paul address communication first?
- How ought the fruit of the Spirit direct the work of the Spirit (gifts)?
- How does abiding in Christ yield the fruit of love?
- What does it mean to "walk in the Spirit" or "keep in step with the Spirit"?
- In what ways can loving service in the body of Christ ultimately impact the world?