

What Love Does



By

William E. Thrasher, Jr.

What Love Does

1 Corinthians 13:1–13 (KJV 1900):

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity 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.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Several years ago Tina Turner sang a hit song entitled “What’s Love Got to DO With It?” The message behind her question was in part autobiographical in that it revealed her attitude about failed relationships, mainly her own with Ike Tuner, her former husband. Tina declared that Love was no more than a second hand emotion. As for as she was concerned there were no benefits, nothing to be gained, or nothing profitable about love. Hers was a painful relationship that had failed and love was the blame. What Tina failed to realize was that Love was the essential ingredient that was missing from her relationship. Had Love been the center

piece, the foundation of her marriage, she would have been singing a different song.

Tina like so many of us, has given Love a bad rap. We humans do a lot of bad things in the name of Love. When in fact it is not Love at all that compels us to do wrong. It is my contention that, for the most part, the working definition of Love that we so often use is so far from what Love really is until we are destined to fail in our relationships before we ever get started. So today I want to take a few minutes to discuss three characteristics about Love: 1 Love's Essentialness, 2 Love's Attributes, and finally 3 Love's Power. In short "What Love Does." My hope is that from this day forward you will have a clearer understanding of what Love is and as well as have the willingness to allow Love to operate in your lives.

What Love Does

1. Love's Essentialness

First let me say that Love is a state of being, not a state of feeling. Don't get me wrong, you can feel it but, the feeling is a result of the knowledge that

Love is the driving force behind the things we say and do.

13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

There was this African King who owned a Rolls-Royce that had been abandoned out in the field. It had been parked there for some time because the chickens had pretty much taken over ownership of the vehicle. When asked why the vehicle had been abandoned the King responded no petro! The finest car that money can buy with all of the bells and whistles you could ask for and yet it was abandoned. The last word in motor vehicle luxury and the chickens were using it as a chicken coop. Why? No petro! If you have no gas for the vehicle, no

matter how well it may be equipped, it good for nothing else but the chickens! So it is with love. No matter how great the projects we undertake or how eloquent we may speak about them, without Love at the center of the actions or the foundation of that which we speak, we are no more than an empty wagon making a lot of noise! For the things we say and do to be meaningful and have a substantive impact, Love is essential!” **That’s What Love Does!**

2. Love’s Attributes

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

One of the misconceptions about love is that love is only associated sunshine and blue skies, but there is so much

more to the character and attributes of love. Love suffers long. Some of you might be thinking that doesn't sound like love to me, but its true Love suffers long. Not only does it suffer long, but in the midst of the suffering it's kind! My late cousin, James Allen, was a country and western singer. One of my favorite songs that he recorded was entitled "Love Is". In the song he says "love is missals, mumps and wiping tiny noses, one who understands when I don't bring home roses. Love one who sees beyond the trees and still holds on to me and lets me know how rich I am in this poverty. That's **What Love Does!** Love is not loud and boastful. It is not ugly and rude. Love doesn't rejoice in the hardships and pains of others nor does it stab others in the back. Instead, Love is willing to bear it's love ones burdens. Love strives to believes the best about everyone. Love wishes the best for everyone, and is willing to deal with whatever comes life way. Why? Because that's **What Love Does.**

3. Love's Power

8 Charity 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.

What makes love so powerful? Love **never!** It's like pure gold. You can't tarnish it, it doesn't fade, it's the only metal on earth that last forever. Love is perennial, it just continues without ceasing. It will outlast any storm, it will endure all conditions. Love is impervious to time, temperament or turmoil. Love never fails! Why? Because that's **What Love Does!**

Had Tina Turner known the Power of Love she might have sang "Love has everything to do with it!" For it was love that looked beyond our faults and blessed us with our needs. It was Love that in spite of our sins, endured an old rugged cross, which was the emblem of suffering and shame, and gave us the right to eternal life! Why? Because that is **What Love Does!**

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. We must have faith in God. We must have Hope in our Savior Jesus Christ and we must abound in God's Love, for that is what makes faith and hope possible! Why? Because that is **What Love Does!**

When you have Love you can be troubled on every side and not distressed, when you have Love, you can be perplexed but not in despair, With Love you can be persecuted, but not forsaken, with Love you can be cast down but not destroyed. Why? Because that is **What Love Does!**