

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

“Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

3 Marks of Service That is Seasoned with Love:

1. An attitude of humility – this prevents pride.

“None of you...be puffed up...” - 1 Corinthians 4:6

“All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” - 1 Corinthians 12:11

4 Traits of Humility Modeled by Jesus in Philippians 2:3-8

- **Humility is others-focused:** *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” (v.3-5)*

- **Humility does not selfishly cling to rights and privileges:** *“Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”* (v.6)
- **Humility willingly serves others:** *“But emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men”* (v.7)
- **Humility obeys God:** *“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* (v.8)

2. An appreciation for diversity and unity in the body of Christ – this prevents division.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” - 1 Corinthians 12:12

Followers of Christ have differing nationalities, cultures, gifts, passions, personalities and experiences, yet we are all unified in our faith in Christ.

3. An aspiration to edify the church – this prevents self-indulgence.

“...strive to excel in building up the church.” - 1 Corinthians 14:12

When Christians practice *agape* in all we say and do, we build up one another and make the church stronger.