

“A More Excellent Way”

Lesson 8: Three Abiding Things (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Intro:

1. In a world that is temporary, it is comforting to know that there are some things that are abiding.
2. With the various challenges families and churches face, we must learn to rely on faith, hope, and love.
3. All three are beneficial with the “greatest of these” being love.

I. Faith and our families.

1. No greater obligation to my family than to guide them in faith toward the Creator.
 - a. Trusting our God as a provider. (Deuteronomy 8:1-11)
 - b. We look forward together to the home of God. (Hebrews 11:9-10)
2. Encourage our brethren to be people of substance. (Hebrews 11:1, 6)

II. Hope and our families.

1. Hope is a principle God shares in the early history of man. (Genesis 3:15)
2. Hope is not a wish. With hope there is a legitimate expectancy to receive.
3. We should strengthen our families in the hope that God provides. (Romans 8:28)
4. Christians share in “one hope.” (Ephesians 4:4)
 - a. We wear the same helmet (reminder). (1 Thessalonians 5:8)
 - b. We are assured of this hope through an authoritative source. (Colossians 1:23)
 - c. That message carries with it the hope that we will live eternally. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)
 - d. Benefit comes to our spiritual family when we will encourage one another in this great hope.

III. "But the greatest of these is love."

1. Faith and hope are vital. Yet nothing is greater or more powerful than love.
2. Love for God motivates our faith in him. Love for his promises anchors us as we longingly hope for the fulfillment of those promises.
3. Love is victorious...
 - a. When challenges mount. (Psalm 113)
 - b. When I am in need of spiritual cleansing. (Psalm 103:10-12)
 - c. When patience is needed. (2 Peter 3:9)
 - d. When I need encouraged. (1 Thessalonians 2:5-8)
 - (1) In the depths of despair it is good to see ourselves through the eyes of those that love us.
 - (2) You are not unlovable!

Conclusion:

1. Love is the "more excellent way" in all things.
2. It is "more excellent" because GOD IS LOVE!!