

Sunday, January 14, 2018—I Corinthians 13:4-8 Charity IS NOT/DOTH NOT

Introduction

- Last week during our time together we talked about the extended verb endings in verses 4 through 8 to understand why the King James Bible reads as it does.
- We learned that the translators utilized forms of speaking that were already falling out of common usage and practice in the early 17th century for the following reasons: 1) increase that accuracy of the translation and 2) maximize the majesty quality of the text when it was read aloud.
- The notes of John Bois reveal that the final step in the translation process was an audible read. As we saw last week changes were made at this step in the process to enhance audible quality of the text.
- This week we want to move on with our exposition of the text.
- Before continuing, I would like to review a few general points about the context and the content of chapter 13.
 - I Corinthians 12:31—the Corinthians had become covetous and competitive with respect to the spiritual gifts. Therefore, Paul is going to show unto them a more excellent way than the gifts.
 - I Corinthians 13:1-3—Paul opens the chapter by stating that even if one can speak with the tongues of men and angels if they do not have “charity” they are all noise and no substance.
- In verses 4 through 8 Paul expounds upon what “charity” IS and what “charity” IS NOT.

Charity Is NOT/DOTH NOT	Charity IS/DOES
Envieth not (v.4)	Suffereth long (v.4)
Vaunteth not itself (v.4)	Is Kind (v.4)
Is not Puffed up (v.4)	Rejoiceth in the truth (v.6)
Doth not behave itself Unseemly (v.5)	Beareth all things (v.7)
Seeketh not her own (v.5)	Believeth all things (v.7)
Is not easily Provoked (v.5)	Hopeth all things (v. 7)
Thinketh no evil (v.5)	Endureth all things (v. 7)
Rejoiceith not in iniquity (v.6)	Never faileth (v. 8)

- Verses 4 through 7 constitute the second paragraph of the chapter, verses 1 through 3 were the first. Technically verse 8 begins a third paragraph but we are going to include the first expression of verse 8, “charity never faileth” with verses 4 through 7.

- If you look at the structure of verses 4 through 7 you will see that Paul begins verse 4 by stating two things that “charity” IS/DOES: 1) sufferth long, and 2) is kind. Then, halfway through verse 4 Paul digresses to outline 8 things that “charity” IS NOT/DOTH NOT in verses 4 and 5 and half of verse 6. Halfway through verse 6 there is a contrasting “but” and they a shift back in verses 6, 7, and 8 to the remaining 6 things that “charity” IS/DOES.
- Given this structure we are going to take these verses as a unit and look at each side of this coin one at a time. Please bear in mind that we are using the following definitions for “charity:”
 - *Webster’s 1828*—“ **In a general sense, love**, benevolence, good will; **that disposition of heart** which inclines men to think favorably of their fellow men, and to do them good. In a theological sense, it includes supreme love to God, and universal good will to men.
 - 1 Corinthians 8:1. Colossians 3:14. 1 Timothy 1:5
 - *OED*—“1) **Christian love**: a word representing *caritas* of the Vulgate, as a frequent rendering of *ἀγάπη* (agape) in N.T. Greek. With various applications: as
 - C) **The Christian love of one's fellow human beings**; Christian benignity of **disposition expressing itself in Christ-like conduct**: one of the ‘three Christian graces’, fully described by St. Paul, 1 Cor. xiii.
 - “But the 16th cent. English versions from Tyndale to 1611, while rendering *ἀγάπη* sometimes ‘love’, sometimes ‘charity’, . . . used ‘love’ more often (about 86 times), **confining ‘charity’ to 26 passages in the Pauline** and certain of the Catholic [Jewish] **Epistles** (not in 1 John), and the Apocalypse, **where the sense is specifically 1c** below.” (*OED* etymological information)

What Charity IS NOT/DOTH NOT

- *Envieth not* (v.4)—the Greek verb translated “envieth” generally means to burn with zeal. I can have both a positive and negative connotation depending on the context in which it is used. It express either of the following:
 - to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger
 - Acts 7:9—Genesis 37:4—Joseph’s brother hated him, sold him, and lied to cover it up.
 - to desire earnestly, pursue
 - I Corinthians 12:31—“covet earnestly”
 - I Corinthians 14:1—“desire”

- I Corinthians 14:39 –“covet”
- I Corinthians 13:4—given the Paul is saying “charity envieth not” he is clearly speaking about the negative side of this word. Charity does not do the following:
 - “feel uneasiness, mortification or discontent, at the sight of superior excellence, reputation or happiness enjoyed by another; to repine at another’s prosperity; to fret or grieve one’s self at the real or supposed superiority of another, and to hate him on that account.” (Webster’s 1828)
- Charity does not sell your brother into slavery as in the case of Joseph.
- *Vaunteth not itself (v.4)*—the Greek verb translated “vaunteth” means “to boast one’s self” or a “self-display, employing rhetorical embellishments in extolling one’s self excessively.” This Greek word only occurs here in I Corinthians 13:4.
- According to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), the English word “vaunt” means: “To boast; to make a vain display of one’s own worth, attainments or decorations; to talk with vain ostentation; to brag.”
- Judges 7:2—God tells Gideon to decrease his numbers because he doesn’t want Israel to “vaunt themselves” and think they were delivered based upon their own strength.
- I Corinthians 13:4—“charity” does not boast, brag, or extoll one’s own merits.
- *Is not Puffed up (v.4)*—we have already seen in our study of I Corinthians that the expression “puffed up” carries the following meanings: inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up; make proud.
 - I Corinthians 4:6, 18-19; 5:2; 8:1
 - Colossians 2:18
- “Charity is not “inflated with vanity or pride” i.e., “puffed up.”
- *Doth not behave itself Unseemly (v.5)*—to behave “unseemly” means “Not fit or becoming; uncomely; unbecoming; indecent.” (Webster’s 1828)
 - I Corinthians 7:36—“uncomely”
 - Romans 1:27—according to God this type of behavior is “unseemly” or unbecoming, uncomely, or indecent.

- Ephesians 5:3—"as becometh saints"
- Philippians 1:27
- Titus 2:3
- I Corinthians 13:5—"charity" do not behave in an "unseemly" manner.
- **Seeketh not her own** (v.5)—to "seek" means to "go in search or quest of; to look for; to search for by going from place to place," or "To inquire for; to ask for; to solicit; to endeavor to find or gain by any means."
- The idea here is that charity does not seek her own advancement and/or promotion. Charity does not function in a way to advance one's self. Rather charity seeks to value and esteem others as better than one self.
 - Philippians 2:4
- **Is not easily Provoked** (v.5)—Excited; roused; incited; made angry; incensed.
 - Deuteronomy 9:8, 22; 32:16, 21
- "Charity" is not easily aroused to anger.
 - Ephesians 4:26
- **Thinketh no evil** (v.5)—"charity" does not think evil thoughts.
 - Philippians 4:8
- **Rejoiceith not in iniquity** (v.6)—"charity" does not rejoice in sin and unrighteousness.
 - Romans 1:18; 2:8; 3:5
 - II Thessalonians 2:12