

The Most Excellent Way

(October 11, 2026, Glen G. Scorgie)

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

SERMON SUMMARY

The Apostle Paul stepped back from all the granular issues convulsing the Corinthian church, and pointed out in classic terms the simple, “most excellent way” forward. This is the way of love, and we understand from elsewhere in Scripture that such love—*agape* love—is all about self-giving (as opposed to getting) for the sake of a valued other or others.

But here Scripture gives us more than a merely technical or philosophical definition of love. It describes such love’s qualities and tonality—its patience and kindness and persistence and the like. And it is these timeless qualities that we intend to review and reflect upon in this sermon.

We live in a world dominated, increasingly, it seems, by motives of self-interest and even hate, and it is all too easy to get caught up in these ourselves. The way of Christian love profiled in 1 Corinthians 13 is a strikingly different approach to life. The goal of the sermon is to inspire us to lean into this counter-cultural, counter-intuitive way of living, which Jesus himself modeled so perfectly, and to dare to believe that it is powerful enough to overcome the world.

In a world of distractions, it is important to remain centered and focused on the few things that matter most. The Apostle Paul stepped back from all the granular issues convulsing the Corinthian church, and pointed out in classic terms the simple, “most excellent way” forward. This is the way of love, and we understand from elsewhere in Scripture that such love—the *agape* variety—is all about self-giving (as opposed to getting) for the benefit of a valued someone else.

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GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. Read slowly through 1 Corinthians 13, the biblical text for this past week’s sermon. What stands out most to you as you reflect on it?
2. What was your main personal takeaway from the message this past Sunday?

3. Discuss what you find most significant in the definition of agape love as “active self-giving for the benefit of a valued someone else.”
4. When a Christian looks *back* in time, what do they see there that inspires them to walk in the way of love? When they *look* forward, what do they see that similarly inspires them to live a life of love?
5. The Scriptures tell us that “Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:2). It was suggested in the sermon that *suffering* can be an integral aspect of agape love. Explain, and if this is true, how can it possibly be worth it?
6. If you wish, share with the group some situations in your life right now where you are facing the challenge of showing this kind of agape love toward some other individual or group.