

- “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three...” - 1 Corinthians 13: 13a
  - Faith, hope, and love are the building blocks of our relationship with God
  - All three are intertwined
  - Will revisit this verse later in it’s entirety, but first should understand what each of these words means
- What is sin? (1 John 3: 4-10)
  - “Lawlessness” (1 John 3: 4)
  - Jesus came so that our sin could be taken away from us, and in him there is no sin (1 John 3: 5)
  - Those who are born of God turn from sin (1 John 3: 9-10)
  - **God’s love is the only thing that allows the cleansing of sin**
    - I’ll revisit this point later
- What is hope? (Romans 5: 3-5, Job 11: 13-20)
  - Job had everything taken away from him: his health, wife, servants, livestock, property, and more
    - He spends the majority of the book of Job trying to rationalize with his three friends why this would happen to him
    - Zophar is speaking here to Job encouraging him to seek God
  - We find hope amidst our trials (Romans 5: 3-5)
    - We can trust in this hope, as we have faith God will fulfill his promises to us (more on this later)
  - Even though we may go through Hell on earth, we can find peace through our hope in God (Job 11: 16)
    - And even amidst all the sufferings and uncertainties, we can feel secure through our hope (Job 11: 18)
  - Hope is our anchor in times of despair, a foundation on which keeps us from collapsing
    - Through our hope, our faith is developed
- What is faith (Hebrews 11:1-3, 10: 19-30)
  - “The assurance of all things hope for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11: 1)
    - We have not seen Jesus, but by faith we know he was raised from the dead
    - We have to trust in God’s word as those before us have
      - God has blessed those before us for their faith
      - Hebrews 11 is full of examples of faith
        - Many of these examples are often known for many different things we view as more notable
        - God values our faith immensely, we can tell here as he is pleased with his servants in Hebrews 11 specifically for their faith, not for other reasons
  - Do you believe in the Bible (don’t actually answer it out loud, just keep it in your head)?

- If you say yes, then that means you believe Jesus truly died for your sins
  - If you say yes, then that means you accept the idea that without Jesus, you are doomed to eternity in Hell
  - If you say yes, then that means you acknowledge that it is blasphemous to ignore the sacrifice of Jesus and stay on the path to destruction
- Do you want a personal relationship with Jesus through the Christian faith (again, don't answer this out loud)?
  - If so, then you can have certainty that your sins of the past can be washed (Hebrews 10: 22)
  - If so, you are also called to keep the name of Jesus, repenting from sin (Hebrews 10: 23)
- Our faith comes with the conviction to serve as an ambassador of God
  - If you don't take the Christian life seriously, you might should reassess where your faith is currently at
  - If you believe that the Bible is true but do not do anything with it, you might should reassess the consequences
- What is Love? (Romans 13: 10, 1 John 4: 7-21)
  - The fulfillment of the law (Romans 13: 10)
    - The entire law of the old testament is summed up in the command to love one another
    - To be loving is to be genuinely good
    - There is no sin in love
      - We know that sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3: 4)
      - If love is the fulfillment of the law, then that means that love is pure, and void of sin
      - We can then assume that to be pure in love is to be truly righteous
  - Only by God's love for us are we capable of expressing any amount of love (1 John 4: 10, 19)
    - True Christian love comes only from God
    - How come non-believers aren't all jerks?
      - Different forms of love (Greek)
        - Eros - Sexual love
        - Philia - Deep friendship
        - Ludus - playful
        - Agape - selfless (the highest form of Christian love)
        - Pragma - long-lasting
        - Philautia - Selfish love
      - Maybe their love is selfish
      - Maybe they just don't have true divine love and instead just have a shallower understanding of love
      - Regardless, we know that through Christian love, our eyes are opened to levels of selflessness we never could have experienced in a secular mindset

- Jesus gave his perfect body up for us who are, even now, drowning in sin
  - God chose to find mercy on us to give us a chance at purity
    - He loved us so that we may chose to love others
    - He blessed us with his spirit, that we may be like him (1 John 4: 13)
  - By loving others, we show our love for God (1 John 4: 11-12)
    - The entire law is summed up in “love your neighbor as yourself”
      - But part of the law says to love God with all our hearts
      - This statement is still correct because the only way to love God truly is by loving each other
    - We are told that the only way to love God is by loving our brothers (1 John 4: 20-21)
  - Our love comes through faith, and our faith is made perfect through our love
    - In order to have pure agape love, we must first chose to accept God’s love through his spirit
    - By our love, we are assured of the existence of God (1 John 4: 14)
    - Our love is what perfects us for the day of judgement (1 John 4: 17)
- How does it all connect? (1 Corinthians 13)
  - Sin is our lawlessness
    - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3: 13)
  - Hope is our foundation
    - Out of our brokenness, we find hope through our trials
  - Faith is our assurance
    - We have such strong hope for our future that we trust in God to deliver us
  - Love is our purity
    - Through our faith, we understand the selfless sacrifice of Christ, and through that knowledge we feel a conviction to give back to God
  - Love is more valuable than anything else of the world or of God (1 Corinthians 13: 1-3)
    - It is more valuable than the greatest of gifts from God
    - It is more valuable than the riches of the world
    - It is more valuable than our mere existence
    - This is because love is purity
  - Examples of love (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7)
    - All in all, love is perfect
  - Love is eternal (1 Corinthians 13: 8-10)
    - It is from God who is everlasting, therefore true love is everlasting
    - We don’t even fully understand it yet, but one day we will understand God’s love in its entirety (1 Corinthians 13: 12)
  - “...but the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13: 13)
    - Love is purity
    - Only through love do we truly know God

- One day, our faith will be made sight, and we will have all the riches of heaven we could ever hope for, but even then we will still have love