

THE SUPERIORITY OF THE PERFECT

Review (6 points)

While 1st Corinthians Ch..13 is a great chapter of God's Agape Love, Paul was applying it to Spiritual Gifted ministries (chs.12-14) of the Body of Christ, the Church (1 Cor.12:12-27).

We learned:

- That Paul put spiritual gifts into two categories: (1 Cor.13:8-10)
 - Those gifts that would be abolish
 - Those gifts that would cease.
 - **We now** refer to these two categories as temporary spiritual gifts.

We learned:

- That God's love never fails!
 - Even when temporary gifts are abolished and cease during the church age (1 Cor.13:10).
 - **Therefore**, God's agape love is greater in context (1 Cor.13:13).

We learned:

- That Partial Gifts would be abolished.
 - By the coming of the Perfect during the church age (1 Cor.13:8-10).

We learned:

- That the Perfect was neuter as well as the partial (1 Cor.13:8-10).
 - This teaches that the Partial gifts were part of the Perfect during the church age.

Thus, in 1st Corinthians Ch..13, Paul has been showing the Superiority of God's Agape Love working through Spiritual gifts.

Paul will show us five ways the Perfect is Superior to the Partial gifts.

1. Once again, the Greek grammar is important to our study regarding the superiority of Gods agape love to the idea of temporary spiritual gifts.

Certain spiritual gifts will be **abolished**, and others will **cease**, but God's Agape Love will **never fail**. (1 Cor.13:8-10).

To make Paul's final doctrinal point in (1 Cor.13:11-13), we will show Paul's outline by the Greek grammar.

(1 Cor.13:11) Childhood verses Adulthood

(1 Cor.13:11a) "When (hote+impf) shows progressive duration in past time of **childhood** - "speak (impf), think (impf), and reason (impf)"

(1 Cor.13:11b) "When (hote + perf) shows completion in past time with completed results in present time of adulthood. "When I became a man (aner (**adulthood**), I did away (katargeo/ perf) [abolished] with the childish things of childhood. (ta) [the things of childhood] (tou nepios)

What changed with the abolishing of partial spiritual gifts?

The childhood of the partial became the adulthood of the perfect. Therefore, there were no losses by the abolishing certain spiritual because the perfect brought them to the maturity of adulthood.

Mirror verse face to face:

(1 Cor.13:12a) “**For now** (gar arti) [temporal adverb of time] we see in a mirror dimly” (partial gifts) - “**But then** (de tote) [temporal adverb of time] **face to face**” (the perfect came).

(1 Cor.13:12b) “**Now (arti)** I know in part” (partial gifts) - “**But then** (de tote) I shall know fully, just as I also have been known fully” (the perfect came).

(1 Cor.13:13) The Superiority of God’s agape love is greater in context because it will NEVER FAIL, even when temporary spiritual gifts are abolished and cease.

2. The spiritual gifts of tongue and interpretation of tongues are temporary gifts:

- They are not part of the **Abolish category.**
- They are part of the **Cease (pauo) category**

Therefore, these gifts will not be affected by the coming of the Perfect. They will cease by completing the Divine Purpose for them. This subject will be discussed in (1st Corinthians Ch..14).

3. Partial gifts and the Perfect did not co-exist during the church age.

(1 Cor.13:10) “When the Perfect (**to teleion**) comes, the partial will be abolished.”

Therefore, the partial gifts functioned prior to the coming of the Perfect during the church age (30-100AD).

4. The Perfect completed the partial gifts in the church age.

Remember partial gifts were part of the perfect.

(1 Cor.13:9-10). “For we **know in part** and we **prophesy in part** but when the Perfect comes, the partial will be abolished.”

Therefore, the partial gifts were incorporated into the Perfect during the church age. The “Perfect” is singular and neuter and “partial gifts” are plural and neuter showing incorporation.

5. The perfect is the completed canon of Scripture which we call, the Bible.

Partial gifts were like childhood compared to the perfect like adulthood.

(James 1:25) “But the one who looks intently at the perfect (ton teleion/ neuter) law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgettable hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.”
(James 1:22-25; Matt.5:17; 24:35).

NOTE: “The perfect law, the law of liberty - The Bible itself, though at the time this letter was written, only the O.T, and the teaching of Christ has scriptural authority.” (Ryrie Study Bible of Jas.1:25)