



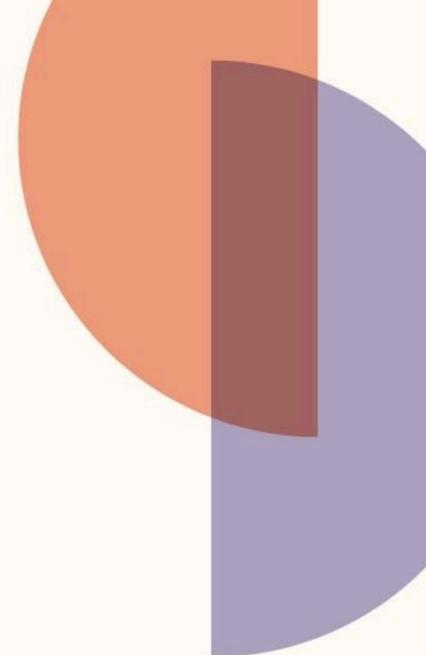
A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

# HOLINESS IN LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

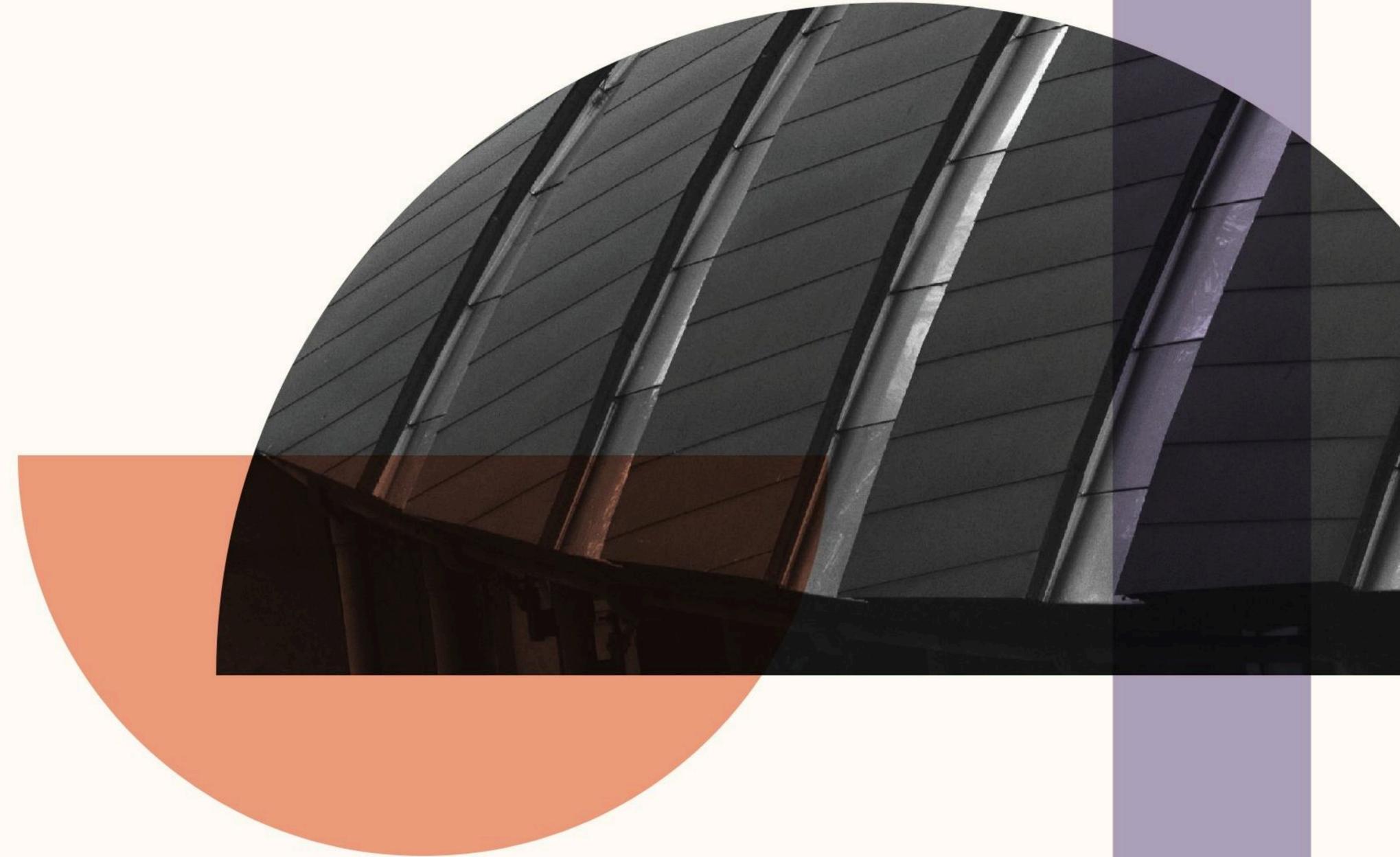
THE EARLY CHURCH  
**SOCIAL PROJECT**

1. Multiethnic
2. Committed to the poor
3. Sexual counter culture
4. Sanctity of life
5. Non-Retaliatory



“But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See, they say, how they (the Christians) love one another, for themselves (the pagans) are animated by mutual hatred; how they (the Christians) are ready even to die for one another, for they themselves (the pagans) will sooner put one another to death.”

Tertullian, *Apology*



# CHURCH COMMUNITY

No one should seek their own good, **but the good of others.** (10:24)

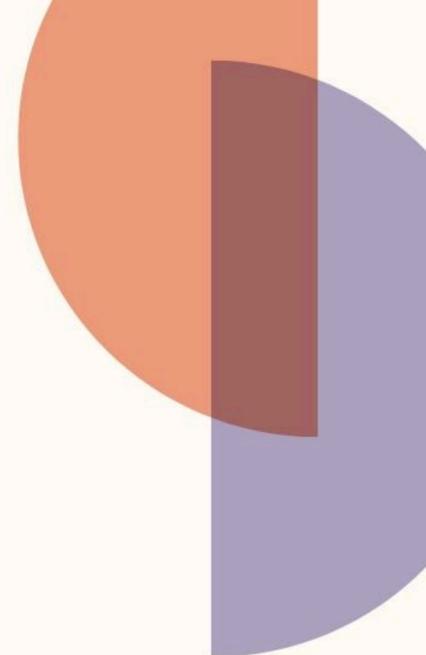
**Do not cause anyone to stumble,** whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God. (10:32)

In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good.<sup>18</sup> In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, **there are divisions among you...** (11:17-18)

So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, **you should all eat together.** (11:33)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given **for the common good.** (12:7)

Just as a body, **though one, has many parts,** but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. (12:12)



## LOVE IS ESSENTIAL

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If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, **I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.** <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, **I am nothing.** <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, **I gain nothing.** (13:1-3)

## LOVE IS EFFECTUAL

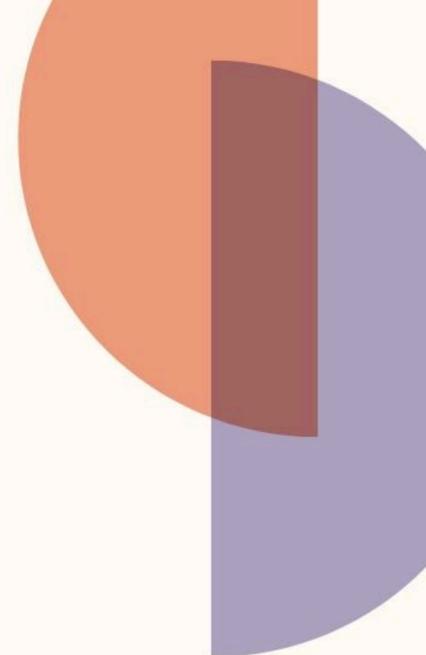
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Love is **patient**, love is **kind**. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always **protects**, always **trusts**, always **hopes**, always **perseveres.** (13:4-7)

## LOVE IS ETERNAL

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Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, **they will cease**; where there are tongues, **they will be stilled**; where there is knowledge, **it will pass away.** <sup>9</sup> For we know **in part** and we prophesy **in part**, <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; **then we shall see face to face.** Now I know in part; then **I shall know fully**, even as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now **these three remain:** faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (13:8-13)



# LOVE IS ESSENTIAL

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 <sup>NIV</sup>

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## **IF I...**

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**Possessed a superior speaking gift.  
Had superior insight or superior faith.  
Displayed superior generosity or sacrifice.**

## **BUT DIDN'T LOVE...**

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**I would just be an annoying noise.  
I would be nothing.  
I would gain nothing.**



# LOVE IS EFFECTUAL

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 <sup>NIV</sup>

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

# LOVE

(AGAPE)

## Definition

To serve a person for their good and intrinsic value, not for what the person brings you.

## Opposite

Apathy/Fear - self-protection or abusing people.

## Counterfeit

Selfish Affection - Rescuing someone but really rescuing self. Attracted not to a person, but to how this person's love makes you feel about yourself.



# WARNING SIGNS OF AN UNHEALTHY CHURCH

Authoritarian Leadership

Isolation

Manipulative Teachings

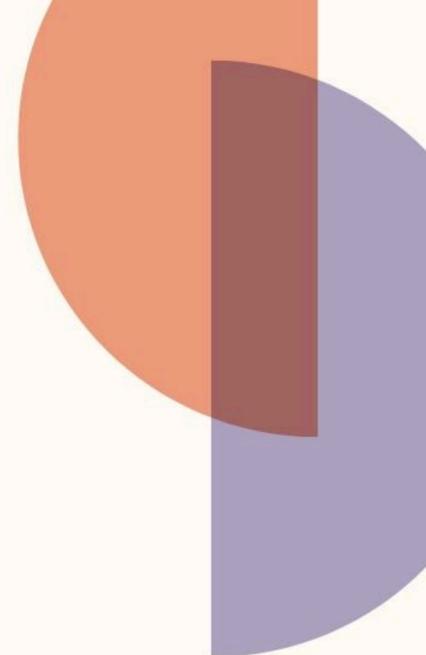
Lack of Biblical Knowledge

Crisis or Vulnerability

Cultural Expectations

Lack of Transparency

Groupthink



# QUALITIES OF LOVE

Patient

Kind

Content

Humble

Honoring

Selfless

Forgiving

Truthful

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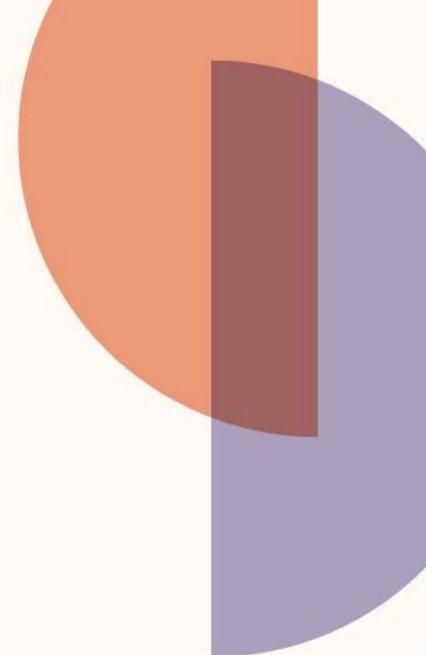
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Therefore welcome one another as Christ has  
welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- Romans 15:7 <sup>ESV</sup>