

## When I Became a Man

John 19:5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And *Pilate* saith unto them, Behold the man!

Pilate had no idea of the extreme significance of his statement.

Our world has many “measures” and many ideas of manhood. As always the Bible has the answer. There was one man who is the measure of manhood. There is one man to be looked to as the ultimate. There is one whose manhood is to strive to be obtained.

When God became a man He gave us the picture of the perfect man. The work of the Word and the Spirit is, as the apostle Paul stated, continual (until):

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The “word” became flesh. What would be the greatest attribute of the word made flesh? The greatest

characteristic must certainly be derived from the greatest commandment.

Mt 22:36 Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law?

Mt 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Mt 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Mt 22:39 And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Mt 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Mark 12:31 And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

This would align with the writings of John in his epistle.

1Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

1Jn 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

We can then conclude in Jesus:

The word was made flesh. Love was made flesh. God became a man. Love became a man.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century we have never "seen" Jesus. So, what does love look like? The apostle Paul gives us a detailed

description of the most excellent way, the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1Cor 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts:**

. . . the greatest gifts – Alf  
aim hard for the choicest graces – Ber  
you should set your hearts on the best spiritual gifts –  
Phi

**and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.**

. . . something else that is better than any of them. –  
Tay

yet I can still show you a way beyond all comparison  
the best – TCNT

and yet I will go on to show you a still higher path –  
Mof

but I shall show you a way which surpasses them all –  
Phi

**1Cor 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men  
and of angels,**

Even though I speak in every human and angelic  
language – Ber

If I can speak the languages of men and even of  
angels – Gspd

**and have not charity,**

and have not love – RSV

and have not love in my heart – Lam

**I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.**

I am only a noisy gong or a clashing cymbal – Gspd  
. . . or a clanging cymbal – Mof

I am no better than echoing bronze, or the clash of cymbals – Knox

**1Cor 13:2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy,***

Even if I speak God's Word – Beck

Even though I have the gift of preaching – TCNT

I may have the powers of prophecy – Knox

**and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge;**

and know all sacred secrets . . . – Rhm

and know every kind of hidden truth and have every kind of knowledge – Beck

and know all secret truths, and knowledge in its every form – Wms

no secret hidden from me, no knowledge too deep for me – Knox

**and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains,**

I may have such absolute faith that I can move hills from their place – Mof

and if had perfect faith so I could remove mountains – Nor

**and have not charity,**

. . . love – RSV

**I am nothing.**

I am useless – Ber

I would still be worth nothing – Tay

**1Cor 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*,**

I may distribute all I possess in charity – Mof

If I should dole out everything I have for charity – Wms

Even if I give away all that I have to feed the hungry – Beck

**and though I give my body to be burned,**

. . . to be burnt at the stake – Knox

if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel – Tay

**and have not charity,**

but have not love – RSV

**it profiteth me nothing.**

it goes for nothing – Knox

it avails me nothing – Mon

I am not in the least benefited – Ber

**1Cor 13:4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind;**

Love is very patient, very kind – Mof

. . . is gracious – Rhm

This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience – it looks for a way to be constructive – Phi

**charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself,**

Love never boils with jealousy . . . – Wms  
. . . it is neither anxious to impress – Phi  
Love knows no jealousy, love makes no parade – Mof  
Love is never envious, never boastful – TCNT

**is not puffed up,**

it is not arrogant – RSV  
nor conceited – NEB  
it does not put on airs – Gspd  
nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own  
importance – Phi

**1Cor 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly,**

is never rude – Mof  
or unmannerly – Ber  
it isn't indecent – Beck

**seeketh not her own,**

never selfish – Mof  
Love does not insist on its own way – RSV  
it does not insist on its rights – Gspd  
Love is never self-seeking – TCNT  
does not pursue selfish aims - Nor

**is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;**

. . . Love bears no malice – Mon  
never provoked, never reckons up her wrongs – TCNT

not quick to take offence, Love keeps no score of wrongs – NEB

it is not irritable or resentful – RSV

it is not touchy, it does not keep account of evil – Phi

**1Cor 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity,**

Rejoiceth not in unrighteousness – ASV

takes no pleasure in wrongdoing – Bas

does not gloat over other men's sins – NEB

love is never glad when others go wrong – Mof

**but rejoiceth in the truth;**

but rejoices at the victory of truth – Knox

but joyfully sides with the truth – Wey

but always glad when truth prevails – Wms

but delights in the truth – NEB

**1Cor 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things,**

. . . can overlook faults . . . – Wey

. . . has unquenchable faith – Ber

always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best – Mof

it bears up under anything, it exercises faith in everything – Wms

there is nothing love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith – NEB

love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust – Phi

**hopeth all things,**

always hopeful – Mof  
hopes under all circumstances – Ber  
it keeps up hope in everything - Wms

**endureth all things.**

ever patient – TCNT  
endures without limit – Ber  
it gives us power to endure everything – Wms

**1Cor 13:8 Charity never faileth:**

Love will never come to an end – NEB  
Love never disappears – Mof  
Love shall never pass away – Con

**but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail;**

. . . they shall be done away – ASV  
. . . it will be superseded – Mof  
the time will come when we outgrow prophecy – Knox  
but whether it be the gift of preaching, it will be done  
with – TCNT

**whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease;**

if now exist ecstatic speakings, they will cease – Wms  
or strange languages, they will stop – Beck

**whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.**

. . . it will soon be set aside – Wms  
as for knowledge, it will be superseded – Mof  
knowledge will be swept away – Knox



whether gaining of knowledge, it shall be done away – Rhm

**1Cor 13:9 For we know in part,**

For our knowledge is fragmentary – Ber

Our knowledge, our prophecy, are only glimpses of the truth – Knox

We only know bit by bit – Mof

We learn only a part of anything – Beck

**and we prophesy in part.**

and the prophet's word gives only a part of what is true – Bas

and what we prophesy is incomplete – Wms

and our preaching is incomplete – TCNT

**1Cor 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come,**

But as soon as that which is complete is come – Rhm

When the time of fulfillment comes – Knox

When wholeness comes – TCNT

**then that which is in part shall be done away.**

then the fragmentary becomes antiquated – Ber

the imperfect will be superseded – Mof

that is the end of the incomplete – Phi

then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end – Tay

**1Cor 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child,**

. . . I used to speak as a child – Rhm

**I understood as a child, I thought as a child:**

to prefer as a child, to reason as a child – Rhm

I felt as a child . . . – ASV

I entertained child interests – Ber

thought like a child, planned like a child - Beck

**but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

but on becoming a man I was through with childish ways – Ber

. . . I gave up childish ways – Ber

. . . I have outgrown childish ways – Knox

when I grew up, I had finished with childish things –  
NEB

**1Cor 13:12 For now we see through a glass,  
darkly;**

For now we see in a mirror, and are baffled – Mon

At present we seem to see only blurred reflections in a mirror – Nor

As yet we see, in a mirror, dimly – TCNT

We can see and understand only a little about God now,  
as if we were peering at His reflection in a poor mirror –  
Mof

**but then face to face:**

but then face to face! – TCNT

but someday we are going to see Him in His completeness, face to face - Tay

**now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**

at present I am learning bit by bit . . . - Mof

now I know in fragments . . . - Mon

as yet my knowledge is incomplete, but then I shall know in full, as I have been fully known - TCNT

. . . but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known - ASV

. . . I shall recognize God as he recognizes me - Knox

. . . just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now - Tay

. . . we shall understand as completely as we are understood - Ber

at present all I know is a little fraction of the truth, but the time will come when I shall it as fully as God knows me! - Phi

**1Cor 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;**

. . . these are the great three - Gspd

There are three things - faith, hope, love - that keep on forever - Tay

In a word, there are three things that last forever: faith, hope and love - NEB

**but the greatest of these *is* charity.**

but the most important of these is love - Beck

## **1Cor 14:1 Follow after charity, . . .**

Keep on pursuing love – Wms

Make love your aim – Mof

Seek this love earnestly - TCNT

Make love your greatest quest – Ber

Behold the man! To be like this man must be our greatest pursuit and aim.

Alf – The New Testament (Henry Alford)

ASV – The American Standard Version

Bas – The New Testament in Basic English

Beck – The New Testament in the Language of Today  
(William F. Beck)

Ber – The Berkeley Version of the New Testament  
(Gerrit Verkuyl)

Con – The Epistles of Paul (W.J. Conybeare)

Gspd – The New Testament: An American Translation  
(Edgar J. Goodspeed)

Knox – The New Testament in the Translation of  
Monsignor Ronald Knox

Lam – The New Testament According to Eastern Texts  
(George M. Lamsa)

Mof – The New Testament: A New Translation (James  
Moffatt)

Mon – The Centenary Translation: The New Testament in  
Modern English (Helen Barrett Montgomery)

NEB – The New English Bible: New Testament

Nor – The New Testament: A New Translation (Olaf M. Norlie)  
Phi – The New Testament in Modern English (J.B. Phillips)  
Rhm – The Emphasized New Testament: A New Translation (J.B. Rotherham)  
RSV – The Revised Standard Version  
Tay – Living Letters – (Kenneth N. Taylor)  
TCNT – The Twentieth Century New Testament  
Wey – The New Testament in Modern Speech (Richard Francis Weymouth)  
Wms – The New Testament: A Translation in the Language of the People (Charles B. Williams)

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