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The Priority of Love Over Spiritual Gifts 12:31b to 13:13



It was Jonathan Swift, the satirical author of Gulliver's Travels, who said, "We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us **love** one another." Spiritual gifts, no matter how exciting and wonderful, are useless and even destructive if they are not ministered in **love**.[391] **The Corinthian believers** were not displaying love toward one another. Quite the contrary. **They** were busily trying to outdo each other by elevating some **spiritual gifts** above others, and some positions of power above others, by seeking places on the platform to the exclusion of others. No wonder **Paul** chided them a bit when **he** suggested that when an unbeliever visited **their** church **won't he say you're crazy (14:23)?** Therefore, **Paul** pointed a finger in **their** faces and essentially told **them** that without **love** it didn't matter what **spiritual gifts the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** distributed in **their** church. **They** meant nothing without **love**.[392]