



**Completeness Is Coming**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:8-13**

## Completeness Is Coming

- **Genesis 4:2-5 NIV**, 2 Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.
  - What emotions do you think were rising up within Cain?
    - Is it patience and kindness?
    - How about envy, pride, dishonor, self-seeking, anger, resentment?

## Completeness Is Coming

- **Genesis 4:6-7 NIV**, 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”
  - Notice sin is crouching (*watching, waiting for an opportunity*) at the door or entrance of Cain’s life
  - God doesn’t call emotions rushing to the door of Cain’s life sin
  - They are waiting at the door for Cain to let them in and give them a home

## Completeness Is Coming

- **Genesis 4:6-7 NIV**, 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”
  - They desire to take root in his life producing more of its fruit
  - Cain now has a choice to make
  - God is warning that sin is an active, crouching force seeking to dominate him, while urging him to take responsibility and master it

## Completeness Is Coming

- **Genesis 4:6-7 NIV**, 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”
  - Could God not say this about each one of us?
  - Sin is crouching at the door of our lives, hiding in the shadows, stroking our emotions, and looking for a permanent space in our mind and heart

## Completeness Is Coming

- **Genesis 4:6-7 NIV**, 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”
  - Just like Cain we are responsible to “*rule over it*”
  - Why?
    - Because “it desires to have you”
  - **AMP**, “And if you do not do well [but ignore My instruction], sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you [to overpower you]”

## Completeness Is Coming

- This is really what the Apostle Paul has been saying **1st Corinthians 13**
  - **Vs. 1-3 NIV**, 1 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. 2 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. 3 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.

## Completeness Is Coming

- This is really what the Apostle Paul has been saying **1st Corinthians 13**
  - **Vs. 4-8 NIV**, 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.
- Then Paul give us some tools to help us learn to “*rule over*” the sinful emotions of our lives

## Scripture

- **1st Corinthians 13:8-13 NIV**, 8 But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 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. 12 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.
  - 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

## Everything in this life is temporary, except love, so treat it with care

- **Vs. 8**, “But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”
  - What does this verse tell you about this life?
  - The highest cravings and desires of Spiritual Gifts of the Corinthian church were only temporary
  - All the great achievements of mankind in this life, temporary
  - All the great knowledge and wisdom that God allows, temporary

## Everything in this life is temporary, except love, so treat it with care

- **Vs. 8**, “But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”
  - What about the things that causes envy, pride, dishonor, self-seeking, anger, resentment – all are temporary
  - Your list of wrongs against you – temporary
  - Your list of failures – temporary

## Everything in this life is temporary, except love, so treat it with care

- Our whole life can be boiled down to three things of importance -
  - **Vs. 13**, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”
    - Faith in the Lord God Almighty
    - Hope that is firmly rooted in the person of Jesus Christ
    - Love for everything that God loves
    - But of those three the only one that is eternal is love

## We are living today with partial intel

- **Vs. 9**, “For we know in part and we prophesy in part”
  - **Vs. 12**, “For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror”
- God has given us enough information to live this life for His glory and to be ready for eternity
  - But we do not see this life or eternity with complete information
- We do not have to envy or be prideful or keep a record of wrongs – “because we don’t have all the facts of the case nor do we know what God is doing”
- The same is true for all the other, “Love is not” statements

## We are living today with partial intel

- **Vs. 9**, “For we know in part and we prophesy in part”
  - **Vs. 12**, “For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror”
- We view this life through a one-way mirror, how it affects us
  - And we never completely trust it into God’s hands who operates with and in complete and total understanding
- Why did God allow Israel to suffer hunger and thirst in the desert
  - To teach them man does not live on bread alone but every word of the Lord

## We are living today with partial intel

- **Vs. 9**, “For we know in part and we prophesy in part”
  - **Vs. 12**, “For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror”
- Why did God allow Joseph to suffer as a slave and in prison?
- Why did God allow Jesus to walk through extreme suffering?
- When you begin viewing life through God’s two-way mirror, we start looking for His hand in all the events of our lives
- And where understanding is difficult or missing, we trust
  - We let our faith, hope, and love loose
- Let God be God in the events of this life, even if they are difficult

## Completeness, Fullness is coming

- **Vs. 10**, “but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.”
  - **Vs. 12**, “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.”
- There is coming a day when every child of God will be raised in newness of life and completeness
  - The child who struggles with addiction, shame, pride, envy, anger or any of the other emotions on Paul’s list – no longer fighting them

## Completeness, Fullness is coming

- **Vs. 10**, “but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.”
  - **Vs. 12**, “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.”
- We will possess glorified bodies just as Christ Jesus
  - Our old body and mind of flesh and sin will someday be set free
  - Paul says we will then be complete – whole, full as we were created to be
  - We will share the righteousness of Jesus and His inheritance

## Completeness, Fullness is coming

- So, how do I fight the sinful emotions of life?
  - Be looking expectantly for your day of completeness
  - Don't be stuck in just today as if this is all there is or will be
  - Don't let the cares and hurts of yesterday keep your eyes focused there
  - Paul said that is like a child who never grows up
  - Keep your eyes on our day of glory

## Completeness, Fullness is coming

- So, how do I fight the sinful emotions of life?
  - Keep your head up and eyes ahead in anticipation
  - Your heart full of love and devotion to God Almighty
  - Knowing that together with Christ Jesus we will be forever
- **Romans 8:18 NIV**, “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”
  - Now how do the sinful emotions of this world compare to that



**Completeness Is Coming**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:8-13**