

Teaching by Contrast

I Corinthians 13:8

Antithetical Pedagogy (teaching by contrast)

Temporary COMPARED to Permanent

TEMPORARY compared to PERMANENT

As we have, in past, made our way, verse by verse, word by word, through I Cor. 13; I have concluded that I would do you a severe injustice if I did not pause here and EXPOUND, ELABORATE, ELUCIDATE, and EXPLAIN MORE COMPLETELY.

Many different attitudes – some don't want to hear; some don't want to accept – because of religious background, denominational influence, tradition, emotionalism. But do we really care what God's Word reveals?

Are we willing to lay aside personal concepts and while filled with God's Spirit allow our Heavenly Father to speak to our hearts from the original texts?

Vs. 8 begins by saying "Love, never fails." The system that God gave His Son at birth and the system God has given each believer at the point of the NEW BIRTH will NEVER Fall, Fade, Disappear, Perish or go under.

LOVE NEVER FAILS – Ἡ ἀγάπη οὐδέποτε πίπτω PERMANENCE

Look at these 4 words:

Ἡ – article THE – This definite article sets the word LOVE aside in a special, unique category.

ἀγάπη – subject noun – nom. fem. singular

οὐδέποτε – Strong Negative Adverb – NEVER

πίπτει – Static Present Tense – presenting a condition as perpetually existing. Active Voice – This love system produces the action; Ind. Mood – Reality – a dogmatic statement of fact.

Teaching by Contrast (Continued)

1. The verb *pipto* has many connotations – and this is based on the fact that teaching is being done by COMPARISON – ANTITHESIS. ANTHETICAL PEDAGOGY
2. The contrast is established with 3 temporary gifts of a spectacular nature:
 - 1) Prophecy
 - 2) Tongues
 - 3) KnowledgeThese were phased out on a staggered basis:
 - 70 AD Tongues phased out
 - 96 AD Prophecy phased out
 - 117 AD Knowledge fades out as the NT canon is circulated.
3. A temporary spiritual gift is therefore defined as one which is discontinued with the completion of the New Testament canon around 96 AD and its circulation a few years later.
4. These temporary spiritual gifts were designed to take up the slack in the Church Age until the NT had been completed and circulated. Once the Canon had been completed, all temporary gifts were withdrawn – including apostleship, prophecy, miracles, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues, knowledge, faith, discerning spirits.
5. In contrast to the temporary gifts, there are permanent spiritual gifts which function throughout the Church Age including: Pastor – communication gift inside the church and evangelist – communication outside the church (also administration, governments, exhortation, giving, and showing mercy).
6. With regard to the temporary spiritual gifts, there are two exceptions to their withdrawal at the completion of the canon of scripture in AD 96. These two were withdrawn from function before 96 AD. FIRST – The Gift of HEALING was withdrawn – healing was designed as an Apostolic Credit Card. This gift was used to establish authority of the apostle as he moved from one place to another as he evangelized and established churches. Once after Apostolic authority was accepted or established, the gift of

Teaching by Contrast (Continued)

healing was withdrawn. Illus: Saul the killer became Paul the Apostle and it took some people a while to accept that fact. To establish his authority, Paul was given the gift of healing – NO ONE HAS THAT GIFT TODAY – IN FACT, this gift did not make it all the way to 96AD.

Note: Paul had the gift – [Acts 19:11, 12](#) and when that authority had been fully established, Paul no longer had the gift – [Phil. 2:25, 26](#), Epaphroditus and [2 Tim. 4:2](#), Trophimus.

SECOND – The second gift that was moved from the stage of history before 96 AD was the gift of tongues and interpretation. The gift of tongues is a misnomer, unless you understand that the gift was not an ecstatic or unknown language, but was speaking fluently with proper accent, with proper idiom, the foreign language, totally unknown to the speaker. A person would stand up and speak a language totally unknown to himself – therefore his mind was not involved. It was *THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT* – using his tongue.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN UNKNOWN TONGUE – [1 Cor. 14](#). This foreign language also had to be a Gentile language. It could not be Hebrew – since the purpose of tongues was to warn Israel of coming discipline and the times of the Gentiles by evangelizing them in Gentile languages with which they were familiar. By AD 70 this gift was withdrawn.

Other than Healing and Tongues – the other temporary spiritual gifts were retired with the completion of the NT canon except for the fact that the Apostle John lived after the Canon's completion, probably until about 117AD.