Lesson—The Greatest Gift  

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:8—13; Romans 13:8—10

I. **Aim for Change/Learning Objectives**
   By the end of this lesson, we will...
   1. Discover the supremacy of love in relation to other expressions of faith.
   2. Desire earnestly to grow in love for God, self, and neighbor.
   3. Assume responsibility for showing this supreme love.

   **Unifying Lesson Principle**: We desire to follow rules and practices that lead to a rightful and satisfying way of life. When there are so many choices before us, how do we know what is the best and most pleasing way of life? Paul asserts that the whole of the Mosaic Law is summed up and fulfilled in the act of love.

   **Key Verse**—*Romans 13:9*...for this, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet semi colon and if there be any other commandment comma it is briefly comprehended in this saying comma namely comma thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself namely, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. *(KJV)*

II. **Points to be Emphasized**
   a. Paul has been Speaking of spiritual gifts, including prophecy and speaking in tongues, and is probably addressing the abuse and misuse of those gifts.
   b. Paul is not critiquing such spiritual gifts per se; Rather, he insists that without love, they are of no value.
   c. Paul's emphasis on love in first Corinthians 13 is such that it complements the spiritual gifts that he teaches about. In fact the compliment is such that love is the greatest of all spiritual gifts.
   d. Unlike the other spiritual gifts Paul makes the point that the gift of love will never end.
   e. If you really want to know what love looks like and how to operate in that gift do as Jesus did and treat your neighbor as you would treat yourself.

III. **Historical Setting of the Lesson**

IV. **The Geographical and Cultural Setting of the Lesson**

V. **Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson**
a. **Paul (Saul)**: the author of several epistles in the New Testament. Of his own volition, he was once a persecutor of Christians (as Saul). While in route to Damascus, he had an encounter with Jesus that converted him and led him to become an apostle to the gentiles.

VI. **Key Terms in the Lesson**

b. **Fulfilment** (*Romans 13:10*) **Greek**: pleroma (play-ro-mah) fullness; a filling up; Completion; fulfilling.

c. **Love**: (1 Corinthians 13:8)—Greek: agape (ag-ah-pay): goodwill; benevolence; love feasts; “charity”.

d. **Tongues** (*1 Corinthians 13:8*)—Gre *hieck* (glossa; gloce-sah): tongue, a language, a nation (usually distinguished by their speech).

VII. **Topical Outline of the Lesson**

1. **Introduction**
   a. The Power Of Love
   b. Biblical Background

2. **Exposition and Application of the Scripture**
   a. Greatest of all things (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)
   b. The Continual Debt Of Love (*Romans 13:8*)
   c. Cause No Harm To Thy Neighbor (*Romans 13:9-10*)

3. **Concluding Reflection**

**Food for thought and question for consideration:** (What have we learned Charlie Brown?)

*We would have to ask this question of the lesson what's your love quotient? Because God is love and the essence of love he expects us (as his disciples) to demonstrate this greatest of gifts toward others. Have you learned that love is more important than gifts?*