

If I Do Not Have Love

Paul wrote a great analysis of True Love in 1 Corinthians 13. Many times we have to rephrase his words to better express our local culture. We can all rewrite these first few verses to suit our situation. The following reshaping relates to those who think they are smarter than anyone else.

Paul's version

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.

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.

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.

Reshaped version

If I speak with the jargon of technical expertise or platitudes of the morally superior, but do not act with sensitivity to others, I am only like a useless and meaningless noise.

If I know much information, and understand everything such that I can calculate how things will happen in the future, and if I have an enormous faith, but do not love people, I am equal to zero.

If I give substantially all of my goods to the poor and suffer great hardships, but make this investment for my own glory (so that people look up to me), rather than out of true love, it will profit me nothing.