

Spiritual Gifts Mini-Series (from I Cor.12-14)
Part 4: Love, African Style – I Cor.13:4-7

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Eternal truths can be expressed in different ways across cultures:
 - i.e. virtues of vv.4-7 may show different kinds of faces
- 0.2 Paul reflects this in I Cor.9:22 – “principle of adaptability” = he adjusts himself when it comes to *non*-essential things, adapting in various ways to situation/culture

1.0 Observations from Nairobi (Karen)

- 1.1 African interactions: South Africa, Liberia (W.A.), Egypt, and Kenya (E.A.)
- 1.2 Anec: from a young Liberian woman
- 1.3 Kenya: independence from Great Britain in 1962: now, 48 million with 68 tribal lgs
- 1.4 People tend to be soft spoken, polite, welcoming

2.0 Love, African Style

- 2.1 A culture of listening & story-telling
- 2.2 Time to chat, discuss, and just be together
- 2.3 Each role gets valued, from teacher to dish washer
- 2.4 On politeness
- 2.5 Ways to show friendship
- 2.6 Gifts
- 2.7 Acknowledging providence – even on buses and *matatus*

3.0 Love, Cross-Cultural Style

- 3.1 The Golden Rule (politeness methods unique to culture; respect should be universal)
- 3.2 Direct personal consideration: acknowledge other person’s value
- 3.3 Share food & one’s hospitable self
- 3.4 These reflect the image of God and Christ in others

March 27 – Gifts Mini-Series - Part 5: The Gift of Words - I Cor.14:1-19