

Love will never come to an end. Are there prophets? their work will be over. Are there tongues of ecstasy? they will cease. Is there knowledge? it will vanish away; for our knowledge and our prophecy alike are partial, and the partial vanishes when wholeness comes. When I was a child, my speech, my outlook, and my thoughts were all childish. When I grew up, I had finished with childish things. Now we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we shall see face to face. My knowledge now is partial; then it will be whole; like God's knowledge of me. In a word, there are three things that last for ever: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of them all is love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-13 NEB

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- The author's final appeal in this passage for love to be the controlling force in all of our relationships is based on the fact that (circle one):
 - love will stand the test of time
 - in comparison to the gift of love, all other gifts are just tinker-toys
 - from the perspective of eternity, any bragging about personal gifts is childish
 - what you value is a good indication of what you are
- The best illustration for me to understand the meaning of "The partial vanishes when wholeness comes" is (circle one):
 - the taking down of the scaffolding when the building is completed
 - the removing of the plaster cast when the bone is OK
 - the putting aside of the "walker" when the child can walk by himself
 - the dawning of the morning sun
 - the musical prelude before the curtain opens

- To me, the meaning of "when wholeness comes" is:
 - growing up
 - the dawning of perfect and complete knowledge
 - seeing God face to face
 - seeing all of the pieces of the puzzle in place
 - reaching my own spiritual maturity
 - being joined completely to God in union

DEPTH ENCOUNTER

- Heaven to me is (choose three and rank 1, 2, 3):
 - ___ streets paved with gold
 - ___ the absence of pain and suffering
 - ___ the reunion with loved ones
 - ___ the fulfilment on earth of all the hopes and dreams
 - ___ perfect love
 - ___ being with Jesus
 - ___ celebration and singing and dancing all day long
 - ___ shedding the limitations of the physical world
 - ___ realizing my true self
- Reflecting on this passage makes me feel (circle one):

a. sad	h. guilty
b. homesick	i. nostalgic
c. bored	j. exposed
d. anxious	k. blah
e. proud	l. warm
f. happy	m. hostile
g. ecstasy	n. great
- As far as my own relationship with God is concerned, it might be described by the words (circle two):
 - stagnant
 - growing
 - uncertain
 - regressing
 - having problems
 - just beginning
 - frustrating
 - moving forward in spurts
 - doing great
 - nonexistent

The part of this passage that really speaks to me is (circle one):

- "Love will never come to an end."
- "When I was a child, my speech, my outlook, and my thoughts were all childish. When I grew up, I had finished with childish things."
- "Now we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we shall see face to face."
- "My knowledge now is partial; then it will be whole."
- "In a word, there are three things that last for ever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love."