

Copy 1

When we read a chapter of the Scripture it is very easy for us to fail to see its relationship to the context. Most of the chapters of the Scripture are closely related to the whole context. and we loose something if we don't see this relationship. For this reason I like to start a little before the chapter starts in reading, and to run over into the next chapter a little bit.

Now this morning I'd like to start with 1 Cor. 12:27, and read on from there through the next chapter, and part of the first verse of the following chapter to get the context. We begin then with 1 Cor. 12:27: (reading text...)

Now it probably sounded a little peculiar to you that I read the KJV exactly as it stands. I don't know when I've heard it read that way in a long time. The KJV has the word charity all through this chapter, but I think for the last 40 years perhaps every time I've read this - I've heard it read, certainly every time I've read it, I have substituted the word love, for the word charity. And of course the word charity does not fit at all today. Charity today means giving something to the poor. Or charity means being tolerant. Neither of those meanings has any relevance. But the King James translators in introducing the word charity here were following an old tradition which began with the LXX. In Greek the common word for love is eros. This word is found a great many times in classical Greek in all the Greek writers. This <sup>word</sup> ~~world~~ originally meant family love. It was used of the intimate relationships of an individual with his family, and was one of the fine high things in ancient society. But then the <sup>word like</sup> ~~world like~~ the modern word love came to be used of illicit relationships. It came to be used of purely physical pleasures which sometimes have in them nothing <sup>whatever</sup> ~~whatever~~ that the eros world love would really indicate. So the Greek word/seemed to the translators of the LXX to have lost its real significance, and we only find the word once in the LXX, in the whole trans. of the OT into Greek we only find it once, and that is in Proverbs where a strange woman asks the man to come to her for the night, and they will have their fill of love.