

The Burning Books - the impact of William Tyndale

Worksheet B

Here's an example of William's original translation (in modern spelling), from 1 Corinthians 13, where the apostle Paul is describing what love is really all about. This Bible reading is often read out at weddings. You might find it easier to read if you imagine that all those words ending in -eth actually end in -es or -s, because that's how we say them 500 years later. ('suffereth' becomes 'suffers', and so on.) Try reading part of it aloud for the best effect!

Love suffereth long, and is courteous. Love envieth not. Love doth not frowardly, swelleth not, dealeth not dishonestly, seeketh not her own, is not provoked to anger, thinketh not evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity: but rejoiceth in the truth, suffereth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth in all things. Though that prophecying fail, or tongues shall cease, or knowledge vanish away, yet love falleth never away.

For our knowledge is imperfect, and our prophecying is imperfect. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is imperfect shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I imagined as a child. But as soon as I was a man I put away childishness. Now we see in a glass even in a dark speaking: but then we shall see face to face. Now I know imperfectly: but then I shall know even as I am known. Now abideth faith, hope, and love, even these three: but the chief of these is love.

Glossary

Abideth: remains when everything else has faded away

Glass: mirror

Imperfect: not perfect

Iniquity: bad or evil things

Prophecying: speaking the things God wants us to say

Swelleth: proud

Suffereth: copes without moaning

Tongues: speaking

Either:

Take a section of this, and try to put it into your own words, using the Glossary and a dictionary. Then compare it with a modern translation of the same passage. Do you notice any differences? Which do you think sounds best when you read it aloud?

Or:

Could *you* dramatise a modern reading of this passage? Think about how you could act out some of the things that Love isn't... and is? (You are allowed to be funny!)

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