

Four Pillars of Charity and Philanthropy

-First Pillar: Religious Freedom with Christian Evangelization and Formation - An Essay by Stephen A Batman December 3, 2025

SVB Interests makes charitable and philanthropic grants based on alignment with its four pillars

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"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Jn 14.6.

It is through our faith in God, our hope in His everlasting love for us, our everlasting life with Him, and our acceptance of His redemptive grace that we are freed from the tyranny of our souls caused by all sins, iniquities, and transgressions done by us and against others that hinder our tranquility, peace, and eternity with Him.

Of the three theological virtues – faith, hope, and love, "love," translated from the original Greek as "charity," is the greatest. Love, as a noun, is a joyful reality. It is a benevolent concern for another, a term of endearment. But love as a verb is a much stronger expression. It necessitates action. God's expressed intention for love is active, not passive. The highest level of love is to extend oneself for the benefit of another without regard to personal cost. It is love most demonstrable by saints. That is love as personal sacrifice, its greatest expression.

Children in joyful prayer are the most innocent and warm expression of worship we can imagine.

At that time, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, *"Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"* He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he

said: *"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."* (Matthew 18:1–5, New International Version).

Jesus often used things in His immediate environment to teach spiritual truths. In this case, Jesus referred to the children in the crowd to make an important point.

"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

It seems like a simple question. From the disciple's religious context, they likely would have answered, *"One who keeps the law."* No one answered—probably because they were all waiting for Peter to give the wrong answer. Meanwhile, Jesus calls a child over and tells them:

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

There's a lot of conjecture about what Jesus meant. Are we supposed to become naive like children? Do we need childlike trust? Luckily, we don't have to guess what Jesus meant.

Children didn't have many protections or rights in the first century. Like animals, they could be disposed of like broken furniture. Kids were seen and not heard. We see this in Luke 18 when parents were bringing their infants to be blessed by Jesus, and the disciples chased them away. In their opinion, the Lord had more important things to do.

Jesus uses this opportunity to reiterate one of His most common points about godly leadership. Like children, kingdom-minded leaders shouldn't be jockeying for position, seeking power over others, or worrying about how others perceive them. Instead, they should serve God by serving others.

SVB Interests is energetically preserving our rights to freedom of worship and living our faith under the protections promised in our Constitution. We make grants to charitable organizations focused on keeping our religious liberties and supporting Christian evangelization and formation.