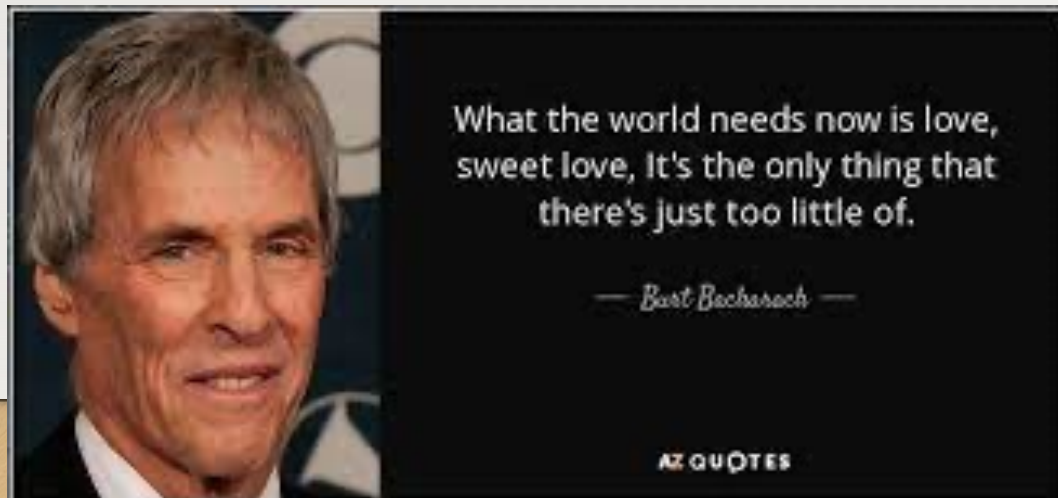


Songs of Love



Problem = What is Love?

1. Love spouse, children, parents, friends, etc. Also love pizza, that sweater, my car, The Mandalorian, etc. – you don't accept & approve of all I am so you must not love me, you're a hater
2. "Love is having total acceptance and the ability to trust and openly communicate, without the fear of judgment or rejection. That shouldn't just apply to romantic love but also to love among family and friends."
3. "Love means enthusiastically answering my many, many questions with an unexpected level of depth, taking care of me when I am sick, indulging my need for spontaneity, making mundane chores manageable (if not fun), and truly seeing my light and looking to amplify rather than dim it."
4. "Celebrating each other's successes and comforting each other through losses. Feeling like home to each other, like a refuge, a safe place to rest your head. Feeling seen and known, in all your authentic weirdness."
5. "Love to me is happiness. It's what puts you at peace with yourself and others, what makes you kind, what makes you trust and especially what puts a smile on your face always!"

Questions?

**Is love an important part of your
life?**

**Who or what defines the way you
love?**

LOOK AT

1 Corinthians 13

CONTEXT

Reminder of the importance of love from Jesus

Greatest Commandment = “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-39

“A new command I give you: As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34

PAUL WOULD KNOW THIS!

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Gifts Meaningless Without Love

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”

- i. *Eros* was one word for love. It described, as we might guess from the word itself, *erotic* love. It refers to sexual love.
- ii. *Storge* was the second word for love. It refers to family love, the kind of love there is between a parent and child, or between family members in general.
- iii. *Philia* is the third word for love. It speaks of a brotherly friendship and affection. It is the love of deep friendship and partnership. It might be described as the highest love of which man, without God's help, is capable of.
- iv. *Agape* is the fourth word for love. It is a love that loves without changing. It is a self-giving love that gives without demanding or expecting repayment. It is love so great that it can be given to the unlovable or unappealing. It is love that loves even when it is rejected. *Agape* love gives and loves because it wants to; it does not demand or expect repayment from the love given. It gives because it loves; it does not love in order to receive. According to Alan Redpath, we get our English word *agony* from *agape*. “It means the actual absorption of our being in one great passion.” (Redpath) Strictly speaking, *agape* can't be defined as “God's love,” because men are said to *agape* sin and the world (John 3:19 and 1 John 2:15). But it can be defined as a sacrificial, giving, absorbing kind of love. The word has little to do with emotion; it has much to do with self-denial for the sake of another.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Gifts Meaningless Without Love

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew 17:20

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Gifts Meaningless Without Love

“If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not love, I gain nothing.”

Includes our Church Values

ASSIGNMENT = Empowerment & Mission

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

TRUE LOVE IN ACTION

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”

- 1. Patient = “makrothymeo” = patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; slow to anger or punish**
- 2. Kind = “chresteuomai” = Friendly, tender hearted, compassionate, considerate**
- 3. Not Envy = “zeloo” = burn with zeal; heated or boil with envy; desire earnestly – Abel; Joseph; Jesus**
- 4. Not Boast = Look at me! Parade oneself**
- 5. Not Arrogant = “physioo” = inflate, blow up, bear oneself loftily**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

TRUE LOVE IN ACTION

“It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”

- 1. Not Dishonor Others = “aschemoneo” = act rude or unbecomingly – Romans 12:10 = “Honor one another above yourselves**
- 2. Not Self-seeking = others-centered, Phil. 2:3b-4 = “Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.”**
- 3. Not Easily Angered = “paroxyuo” = irritated, provoked, rouse to anger, James 1:20 = “because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires (notice easily angered, there are times for righteous anger and it being love)**
- 4. Keeps No Record of Wrongs = does not keep an account or store up in memory of wrongs received – don’t cling to the past to weigh you down, be free (BUT, LEARN FROM HURTS SO WE DON’T PUT OURSELVES IN THAT POSITION AGAIN)**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

TRUE LOVE IN ACTION

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”

- 1. Not Delight in Evil = wants the best for others; work on our own sins as well as help others with sin, 1 Cor. 5:12 = “What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?”**
- 2. Rejoices with the truth – love is pure & good, so is truth; celebrate truth in others, ourselves, the church, etc.**
- 3. Love does not just let people do whatever they want to and give full acceptance & approval!**

LOVE IS NOT ALWAYS LOVE IN OUR WORLD!

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

TRUE LOVE IN ACTION

**“It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.”**

- 1. Protects = “stego” = cover to keep off something that threatens; hide**
- 2. Trusts = “pisteuo” = confidence in the goodness of someone we love**
- 3. Hopes = “elpizo” = wait for salvation, with joy & full of confidence; love has confidence in future because confident in God**
- 4. Perseveres = “hypomeno” = endure; bear bravely & calmly – LOVE NEVER GIVES UP!**
- 5. ALWAYS – In All Things – with love, these things should always be a given which is why we need help from our Loving Father**

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

LOVE IS FOREVER

(8-10) “Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled, where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.”

- 1. Never Fails = “pipto” = perish; come to an end; disappear; cease**
- 2. Spiritual gifts are temporary**
- 3. Completeness = “teleios” = that which is perfect, when Christ returns**

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

LOVE IS FOREVER

(11-12) “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

- 1. 2 illustrations from life to solidify gifts as temporary and love as eternal**
- 2. When a child, I did what a child should do (toy cymbals) – But as an adult, childhood disappears**
- 3. Corinth famous for bronze mirrors – not very clear to see in them**

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

LOVE IS FOREVER

**(13) “And now these three remain: faith hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.”**

1. Priorities for the believer

2. Together in the Scriptures - Examples

a. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. (Galatians 5:5-6)

b. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

c. Who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart. (1 Peter 1:21-22)

3. Greatest = Love – love is an attribute of God – He is love (1 John 4:8)

Other Important Love Verses

- A. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. - 1 John 4:7-8
- B. We love because he first loved us. - 1 John 4:19
- C. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. – 1 John 4:9-12
- D. God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8
- E. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. - Romans 13:8
- F. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. -1 John 3:16-18
- G. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. - John 13:35

**1 Corinthians 12:31b = “And yet I will show you
the most excellent way.”**

**For the follower of Christ, This is the way, the most,
excellent way!**



LOVE!

APPLICATION – What Now?

- 1. Confess & repent to God and the others in our lives for the way we have not truly loved according to Biblical truth**
- 2. Turn to the Lord and beg Him to show His mercy and help us love each other as Christ loved us, sacrificially based on truth not selfish feelings**
- 3. Read 1 Corinthians 13 at least once every week as a reminder of God's truth about His love – try to memorize vv. 4-7**
- 4. Write down ways you could love the people in your life: family, work, school, church, activities, friends, etc.**
- 5. Then, live the most excellent way & LOVE everyone with God's help since God is love.**

**This is the Way,
The Most, Excellent Way!**

LOVE!

