



Part 6: LOVE DEFINED

1 Corinthians 13:13 "In this life we have three lasting qualities -- faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love."

1 Corinthians 14:1 "Follow the way of love..." (LB "Make love your greatest aim...")

Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

1 John 2:9-11 "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him."

John 13:34-35 Jesus said, "A new commandment I give you: Love one another! As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know you are my disciples if you love one another."

Matthew 22:36-39 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied: '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.'"

Ephesians 3:17-19 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

The Priority of Love

✓ Without love, all that I _____ is ineffective.

1 Corinthians 13:1 "If I speak in the tongues of men and/or angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal."

✓ Without love, all that I _____ is incomplete.

1 Corinthians 13:2 "If I have the gift of prophecy, and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge... but have not love I am nothing..."

1 Corinthians 8:1 "...Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up."

✓ Without love, all that I _____ is insufficient.

1 Corinthians 13:2 "... and if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love I am nothing."

Galatians 5:6 "... The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

✓ Without love, all that I _____ is insignificant.

1 Corinthians 13:3 "If I give all I possess to the poor... but have not love, I gain nothing."

✓ Without love, all that I _____ is inadequate.

1 Corinthians 13:3 "... (if I) surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

- There is nothing more important in life. Life minus love equals nothing

1 Corinthians 13:7-8 "Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. Love never fails."

Putting it into Practice

Colossians 3:14 LB "Most of all, let love guide your life..."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. Love is not rude. It is not self seeking. Love is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

1. Love is an _____

2. Love is a _____

THE POWER OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:8 Love never fails (Unsuccessful, stops functioning, stops growing, collapses, Never lets somebody down, becomes weaker, judges someone not good enough)

Romans 5: 3-5 . . . but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

1. Love is _____ by knowing God.

1 John 4:7-11 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

2. Love is _____ in adversity.

Luke 6:32 -35 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them . . ."

3. Love is _____ by intentional and unconditional acts of kindness.

Romans 5:6-8 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 13 *Personalized Version*

"I am patient, I am kind. I do not envy, I do not boast, I'm not proud. I'm not rude, I am not self-seeking, I'm not easily angered, and I keep no record of wrongs. I don't delight in evil but I rejoice with the truth. I will always protect, always trust, always hope, always persevere. I will never give up, fail, or let the people around me down."

Challenge Question: Who are the people that get under your skin and God wants to change them from a splinter to a pearl?