

LESSON
07

A PORTRAIT OF LOVE

SUNDAY – The Essentialness of Love

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13. Summarize what he is telling us about love.

A: - It's no use doing great things without love.

- Love possesses the noblest attributes (what love does)

- Love does not share human selfishness (what love does not do)

- The gifts of the Spirit will cease. But love will remain

- Child's analogy

- Mirror analogy

- Love is greater than faith and hope

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

⁸Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, **they shall be done away**; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away. ⁹For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. ¹¹When I was a **child**, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things. ¹²For now we see in a **mirror**, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. ¹³But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and **the greatest of these is love**.

SUNDAY – The Essentialness of Love

2. Read Matthew 24:12. What warning does Jesus give us here?

A: One of the signs of the end will be a lack of love in society, in the church, in families, and in individuals.

Matthew 24:12

¹²And because iniquity shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall wax cold.

MONDAY – What Love Does

1. Is patient.

Be calm in difficult circumstances. Ability to tolerate others, especially when they have made mistakes or when they think differently.

2. Is kind.

It imitates God's compassion and mercy toward us.

3. Joy in truth.

Ability to rejoice together with another person.

4. Suffers all.

Endure, resist, in the sense of having resilience.

5. Believes all.

Related to the word “faith.” Give the other the benefit of the doubt. Trust.

6. Waits all.

Wait expectantly for something good to happen. Optimism.

7. Supports all.

Perseverance in the midst of trials. Believe and wait.

TUESDAY – What Love Does Not Do

3. Read again 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Why does Paul mention negative rather than only positive characteristics of love?

A: To demarcate the contours of love. To delimit what is not love.
To exemplify from two different points of view.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
⁵doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; ⁶rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; ⁷[love] beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

TUESDAY – What Love Does Not Do

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| 1. Does not burn in jealousy. | It is right to desire spiritual gifts, but not to envy those who have received them. |
| 2. Does not boast | Love is not self-centered. |
| 3. Is not proud | It is not someone “inflated”. Knowledge leads to pride, love edifies. |
| 4. Does not act inconveniently | Does not act against moral and social standards. It is not rude or improper. |
| 5. Does not seek it's own interests | Love gives up rights in favor of others. |
| 6. Does not get angry | Love is neither explosive nor touchy. It is not easily agitated. |
| 7. Does not resent for the wrong suffered | He who loves does not register or keep offenses. He who loves forgives. |
| 8. Does not rejoice with the injustice | Love forgets the mistakes of others and takes no pleasure in the failure of others. |

WEDNESDAY – A Portrait of Jesus

4. Read John 13:1, 34; 15:9, 12; 1 Timothy 1:14; 2 Timothy 1:7, 13; 1 John 3:16; 4:7-12, 19-21. What can we learn about love from these passages?

A: Jesus loved his disciples even to death. Tolerated their faults and forgave their mistakes. He has given a new commandment about love whose standard is higher than the old.

John 13:1, 34; 15:9, 12

¹Now before the feast of the passover, Jesus knowing that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own that were in the world, **he loved them unto the end.** [...] ³⁴**A new commandment I give unto you**, that ye love one another; even **as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**

Leviticus 19:18

Thou shalt not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people; but **thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.** I am Jehovah (see Mt 22:36-40).

WEDNESDAY – A Portrait of Jesus

4. Read John 13:1, 34; 15:9, 12; 1 Timothy 1:14; 2 Timothy 1:7, 13; 1 John 3:16; 4:7-12, 19-21. What can we learn about love from these passages?

A: - The grace and love of God abounded exceedingly for us.
- God gives us the spirit of love.
- Our words must be soaked in love

1 Timothy 1:14

And the grace of our Lord **abounded exceedingly** with faith and **love** which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:7, 13

⁷For God **gave us not a spirit** of fearfulness; but of power and **love** and discipline. ¹³Hold the **pattern of sound words** which thou hast heard from me, in faith and **love** which is in Christ Jesus.

WEDNESDAY – A Portrait of Jesus

4. Read John 13:1, 34; 15:9, 12; 1 Timothy 1:14; 2 Timothy 1:7, 13; 1 John 3:16; 4:7-12, 19-21. What can we learn about love from these passages?

A: Love of **God toward man**: God sent Jesus to die for us.

Love of **man toward God**: We must keep his commandments.

1 John 4:7-10

⁷Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God. ⁸He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ⁹Herein was the love of God manifested in us, that God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰**Herein is love**, not that we loved God, but that **he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

1 John 5:2-3

²Hereby we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do his commandments. ³For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:** and his commandments are not grievous.

WEDNESDAY – A Portrait of Jesus

Love is not a feeling, it is a principle of action, an attitude. In practice, he who loves his neighbor keeps the law, and he who keeps the law manifests love toward God and toward his neighbor. It is not possible to fulfill the law without love, it is not possible to love without fulfilling the law of God.

Romans 13:8–10

⁸Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for **he that loveth his neighbor hath fulfilled the law**. ⁹For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not covet, and if there be any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. ¹⁰Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: **love therefore is the fulfilment of the law**.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

⁴Love **he that keepeth the law** suffereth long, and is kind; love [he that keepeth the law] envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; ⁶**he that keepeth the commandments** rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; ⁷beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. ⁸Love never faileth [the law is eternal, he who keeps the law will live forever];

WEDNESDAY – A Portrait of Jesus

1 John 4:17-21

¹⁶And we know and have believed the love which God hath in us. God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him. ¹⁷**Herein is love made perfect with us, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment;** because **as he is [Luke 6:40], even so are we in this world.** ¹⁸**There is no fear in love: but perfect love casteth out fear,** because fear hath punishment; and **he that feareth is not made perfect in love.** ¹⁹We love, because he first loved us.

LESSONS

1. Don't be afraid of investigative judgment. If you love, you will have confidence.
2. All of God's commandments are enabling promises.
3. If you are made perfect in love, and surrender all to the Saviour's feet, you will feel no fear. Love is able to remove all fear.

THURSDAY – Faith, Hope, and Love

- The gifts of the Spirit will cease. But love will remain
- There are good things in childhood, but they are no longer necessary in adulthood.
- Today we need prophecies, healings, governments, tongues. But one day we will experience another reality. We know only in part. One day we will know how we are known.
- Love is greater than faith and hope. Love is already a part of eternal life, a heavenly principle. A home of love is already a foretaste of Heaven. Love is the greatest of all gifts.

