

Two questions for tonight:

Why is love so important?

What does real love look like?

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love's Absence demonstrates it's I N F I A N E!

Love's Presence reveals it's _____!

God's great purpose is that His own love would reach you, fill you, change you, remain in you!

As we think about the significance and the source of Godly love, we see:

1) Our _____ for Christ!

2) A great _____ for Christ!

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

❖ LOVE IS PATIENT

Love gives you the capacity to put up with difficult _____

and desperate _____.

❖ LOVE IS GENEROUS

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

Love gives you the capacity to let go of the _____ of reciprocating love from others!

...Freely you have received. Freely give. Matthew 10:8

❖ LOVE IS HUMBLE

Love begets forgetfulness of self and forgetfulness of self is HEALTH!

When a man begins to boast, he is advertising his emptiness and his ignorance. There is no swagger about love... it is too big for that!

Dr Alan Redpath

❖ LOVE IS GRACIOUS & HOPEFUL

Warnings:

A gloomy pessimism can so easily take root in our souls
Cynicism that doesn't anticipate anything good is NOT rooted in love!

❖ LOVE IS CONSISTENT (vs. 7)

Love protects, shields, guards, covers, conceals, and safeguards people from exposure; Love strains forward with all its might to believe the very best in every situation; Love always expects and anticipates the best in others and the best for others; Love never quits, never surrenders, and never gives up; Love never disappoints, never fails, and never lets anyone down."

How do we use this teaching?

What use are we to make of this Scripture?

Three Uses:

1) Use this Scripture to _____ yourself.

Ask yourself:

- With whom do I need to be more patient? Who is that person?
- Where do I need to be more generous?
- Who in my life am I most tempted to envy?
- Who do I need to listen to better?
- Where can I show greater courtesy than I have done?
- Where have I shown a bad temper or a sour spirit or self-pity?
- Is there someone whose difficulties have become pleasure to me?
- What good things in other's lives have brought me joy?

2) Use this Scripture to STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH!

When you see that this is what God wants your life to look like, then you will have the confidence to ask him for these things!

Lord I see my need for these things in my life! Will you form them in me, will you create them in me. Will you transform my life to your likeness

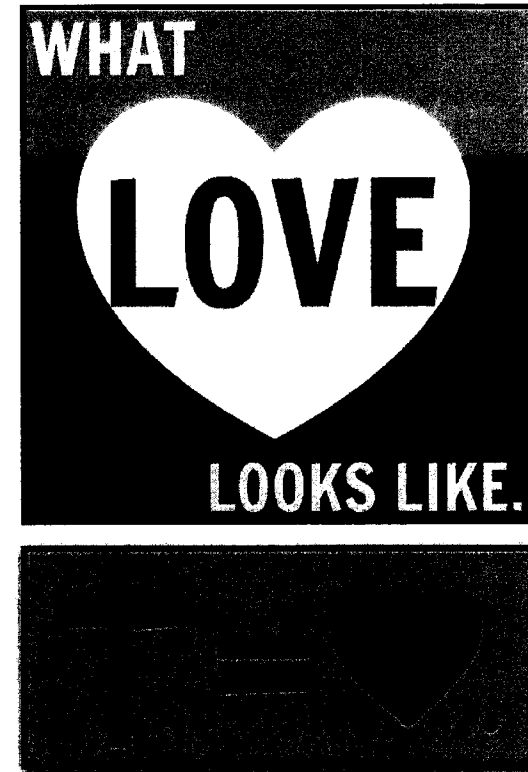
The message of Christianity is not "you are a miserable failure, try harder, do better, measure up, straighten up, man up

The message of our faith is to say, you are a miserable failure, but God's grace can redeem you and remake you, and transform you and fill you!

The Gospel tells us that when we come to Jesus in faith, God pours His love into our heart by His Spirit! And if God pours His love into your heart, this is the kind of person you can become!

3) Use this Scripture to INCREASE YOUR JOY!

This text should be a feast for your soul! Spend a few moments pondering the love of Christ for YOU!



*LOVE . . . bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.*

1 Corinthians 13:7

Longview Heights Baptist Church

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