

## The most excellent way 1 Corinthians 13

### On how God Loves us

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3** All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

*1 John 3:1-3*

Because of your unfailing **love**, I can enter your house; I will worship at your Temple with **deepest** awe.

*Psalm 5:7*

14 But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." 15 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! 16 See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.

*Isaiah 49:14-16*

### How this love is our number one weapon to fight our battles

***Don't bring a kazoo, (our reasoning, understanding, agenda), to a gun fight***

We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

*2 Corinthians 10:14*

**10** A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. **12** For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

*Ephesians 6:10-12*

***Fear makes us freeze, Perfect Love sets us free***

**18** Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

*1 John 4:18*

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### ***Love conquers selfish desires and obliterates sin***

**8** We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

*1 Thessalonians 2:8*

Most important of all, continue to show **deep love** for each other, for **love** covers a multitude of sins.

*1 Peter 4:8*

### **NOT PLATITUDE, HAPPY FEELINGS, OR WORDS ALONE.....IT CHANGES EVERYTHING....INSIDE/OUT!!!**

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. **3** If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;<sup>[a]</sup> but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

**4** Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud **5** or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. **6** It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **7** Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**8** Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages<sup>[b]</sup> and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! **9** Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! **10** But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

**11** When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. **12** Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.<sup>[c]</sup> All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

**13** Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

*1 Corinthians 13*

### **Reminder from our Lead Pastor**

- \* **Support your leaders (Shepherds, Deacons, Staff)**
- \* **Speak encouragement and hope**
- \* **Do your part with joy and anticipation**
- \* **Don't stifle the spirit**