

# LOVE

## Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

### 01 – Background

### Have you been lied to?

False teachers sometimes tell people that ...

- **The Old Testament** is "negative" – full of *wrath, anger, judgment, law, etc.*
- AND (in contrast) -
- **The New Testament** is "positive" – full of *love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, etc.*

Actually, **BOTH** Testaments contain **ALL** of these concepts!

- False teachers pick out the verses they like ... and ignore the others!

\* Jesus, to the lukewarm church: "I am about to vomit you out of my mouth!" (Rev. 3:16b, LEB)

### "LOVE" in the OLD Testament

Words translated as "love" occur about 450 times.

- Most frequently in the **Psalms**.
- Followed by **Proverbs** and **Song of Solomon**.  
(about the same number in each)
- Then **Deuteronomy, Genesis** and **Hosea**...  
(and then the other books)

### "LOVE" in the OLD Testament

- We might expect a high number of instances in the **Psalms**.
- But some people might be *surprised* by how often "love" is found in **Deuteronomy** and **Hosea**.
  - These books talk about *law, judgment* and *punishment* – concepts that many people claim are incompatible with "love"!
 

(Of course, these people are wrong!)

## "LOVE" in the NEW Testament

Words translated as "love" occur about 280 times.

- Most frequently **John**, then **1 John**.
- Followed by **Ephesians**
- Then **Romans** and **1 Corinthians**...  
(about the same number in each)  
(and then the other books)

## "LOVE" in the NEW Testament

- We might expect a high number of instances in **John** and **1 John**. After all, the author (the apostle John) is often called "the apostle of love."
- We also know that **1 Corinthians 13** is often called "the love chapter."
- But the book of **Romans**? This book starts out talking about *wrath*, *judgment* and *punishment!*  
(Did someone forget to tell Paul that those were "too negative" to talk about? Or did he reject modern-day lies?)

In BOTH Testaments, there are TWO main words translated as "love."

SECTION OF THE BIBLE	A WORD EMPHASIZING LOYALTY AND COMMITMENT	A WORD EMPHASIZING FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS
OLD TESTAMENT	VERY COMMON	VERY COMMON
NEW TESTAMENT	USED MOST FREQUENTLY	NOT AS OFTEN

Used to describe the love of God toward his people, and the love of Jesus' followers toward other people.

When we see the word "LOVE," do we need to know which "original language" word it is?

- If you're a "newborn" Christian: NO!
- If you're growing up in the faith: It can be helpful. (Many Bible study helps are available, some for free!)

For all of us, the most important thing is this:  
**PAY ATTENTION TO THE CONTEXT**  
where the word occurs.  
Read the passage to see what it's talking about!

## Romans 12:9-21 and 1 Corinthians 13

- **BOTH** describe "living the Christian life" – which is summarized by the word "love."
- **BOTH** passages are found in the context of "using our gifts and abilities."
  - We have an **obligation** to use our abilities *for the good of others*, and *as an expression of love*.
  - Those who don't do this are living in sin and do not have God's love in them.  
(This includes all habitually lazy people.)

In this series, we aren't going to focus on 1 Corinthians 13...  
**BUT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO REVIEW WHAT IT SAYS!**

This love is present (in some degree) in ALL saved people.  
But we need to grow in our expression of it.

On the following pages is a copy of 1 Corinthians 13.  
Consider what it says, and (this week) focus on some aspect of love that you need to improve.

## Your Mission...

### **READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13 ... AND ASK YOURSELF:**

- What is genuine LOVE like?
- What is the place of LOVE in the life of anyone who is following Jesus?
- What are some ways in which my LOVE needs to increase?

## Your Mission...

### **THEN...**

- Choose a characteristic of love that you can work on growing this week.
- Growth may take time; but if you are following Jesus, he has already given you the power to grow in your love.

**Growth will take a willingness to rely on his power and to deny the impulses of your sinful nature.**

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ULB)

#### **ITS IMPORTANCE:**

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but if I do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and understand all hidden truths and knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but if I do not have love, I am nothing.

And if I give all I own to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but if I do not have love, I gain nothing.

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ULB)

#### **ITS DESCRIPTION:**

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.

It is not self-serving, it is not easily angered, nor does it keep a count of wrongs.

It does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, has confidence concerning all things, and endures all things.

### 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (ULB)

#### **ITS PERMANENCE:**

Love never ends.

If there are prophecies, they will pass away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will pass away.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, that which is incomplete will pass away.

### 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 (ULB)

#### **GROWING UP... ONLY ONE THING IS PERMANENT!**

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought as a child, I reasoned as a child. When I became an adult, I put away childish things.

For now we see in a mirror, as in a dark image, but then face to face.

Now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I have been fully known.

But now these three remain: faith, confidence, and love; but the greatest of these is love.

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# Your Mission...



## **Read 1 Corinthians 13 ... Then:**

**ASK** - What does this passage tell us about LOVE?

**CONSIDER** - To what extent do you have this type of LOVE? Are there some ways your LOVE needs to increase?

**DO** - Choose a characteristic of LOVE that you are weak in. Work on growing it this week.

**Bad habits normally take longer than one week to change, since they've been reinforced for many years. But if you are following Jesus, he has already given you the power to grow - even if it takes a lot of time and effort. [Growth will require you to: 1) rely on his power and 2) deny the impulses of your sinful nature.]**

## **1 Corinthians 13**

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