

November 13, 2016

**Core Values**

*Love*

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Galatians 5:6

**Our Love for each other**

John 13:35    Philippians 2:1-4    1 Peter 1:22+23

**Our Love for others**

Jonah 4:2-3    Matthew 22:37-40

**God's love for us**

Romans 5:8    Jeremiah 31:1    Galatians 2:20

What is the most important characteristic in life? What is the number one trait that a person needs. . . that a Christian needs?

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul says that the number one trait is love. Tina Turner sang “What’s love got to do with it?” The answer: plenty!

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1 - 13

How does the culture describe love? How does it define love? How does this contrast from how Scripture describes and defines love?

Paul gives a concise explanation of love that describes many of its attributes. From these verses we see what love is and isn't, or what love does and doesn't do.

What are the things that true love is? Go ahead and list them all.

Of those qualities which do you think are the most difficult for you personally? Which qualities do you see as being difficult for most people?

Which qualities seem to contradict the culture and in what ways?

Now list the things that love isn't.

Of those things, which is the trait that seems the most difficult for people in general? Why do you think that is the case?

Love is talked about all the time yet it seems it is either misunderstood greatly or not really practiced. What makes loving others so difficult?

The two lists of what love is and isn't shows attitudes. Love is not just a word we say, but an attitude that we have towards others.

Love should penetrate every relationship we have, not just romantic and family relationships. Love is not confined to boyfriends and girlfriends. Love should be shown at work, the grocery store and in the classroom.

Re-read 1 Corinthians 11 and 1 John 4:7 - 8

When it comes to love, Paul seems to indicate that love is a learned response. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

How should growth as a believer coincide with love? Is our love level a good barometer of our Christian walk? Is it fair to view it that way? Why or why not?

Read 1 John 4:16

In ways do we see God is love? If someone were to ask you to describe a loving God, what would you say? How would you describe Him?

That description should give us an indication how we ought to love. Jesus said people would know we are His disciples by our love for one another.

What is the difficulty with that statement?

Some would say that love is action. Some would say that love is attitude. Which is it and why?

Check out Philippians 2:1-8

What does this passage reveal about God's love for us through Jesus? What must happen to our attitudes and actions for us to love like Jesus?

Think about your own life. Are you a loving person? What are the areas where you struggle to love others deeply? What are steps you could take to be more loving?