

I Corinthians 13

What does the Bible say about
how I Love my Spouse?



- In a couple days we will be celebrating Valentine's day
- And it is a day about love between a man and a woman
- I thought it would be good to talk about the love chapter in the Bible



- What does it mean for the husband to love his wife?
- God wants us to love our spouses, it is a command of 1st importance
- The Bible has plenty to say about love, it is like a thread throughout the Bible
- It is what God has shown to mankind in sending his Son, Jesus
- And there is one passage in I Cor 13 that describes love the best



- When the New Testament was written, there wasn't a word that described this kind of love
- Greek words like **Eros**-passionate love between husband and wife.
- **Philo**-philadelphia brotherly love
- And so the writers of the New Testament had to find a rare Greek word
- **Agape**-*selfless, giving love that thinks about the other person 1st*
- John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that He gave his only son”*



I. How can I Impress my Spouse?

Vss. 1-3



- If I act in one of these ways I could really impress people
 1. *If I spoke in the language of men and angels*

There are some who think that if they were super-spiritual and could speak in the language of angels that would be impressive
 2. *If I could discover the deep mysteries of God*

Things that no one else knew, a special knowledge
 3. *If I had faith to move mountains*

I could pray and move mountains, wow people would be impressed



4. *If I gave everything that I had to the poor*

If I was a great philanthropist, people would really be impressed

5. *If I became a martyr, if I died for God*

People may write about me in the history books



- *We think that in doing great things that the sacrifice is noticed by God or by people*
- But these things don't impress God at all
- Love is impressive to God

- Sacrificial, giving love is impressive to your spouse also
- Where you think about his or her needs and nothing of your own
- Love is the most important thing that you can do
- It is the missing ingredient in many people's lives
- Jesus quoted a Bible passage, "I desire mercy-love, not sacrifice"
- *The ultimate spiritual life isn't sacrifice or doing great things. It is love*



- If you are making chicken noodle soup and forget to put in the chicken, it isn't chicken noodle soup, all you have is water and noodles. You have forgotten the most important ingredient in the soup
- If you forget **love** in the Christian life, you are missing the most important ingredient
- If you don't have **love** in your marriage, you are missing the most important thing in your marriage



II. Description of Love

Vss. 4-7

LOVE IS PATIENT

love is kind love is not
jealous or
boastful

IT IS NOT love does not *it is not*
ARROGANT insist on *irritable or*
OR RUDE its own way *resentful*

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS

believes all things

HOPES endures

all things **all things**

LOVE NEVER ENDS

We talk about love all the time, but what does it mean?

1. ***Patient*** It is not letting things-people bother you
2. ***Kind-mercy*** it is connected to patience, they go together
We are also told what love isn't, maybe we are given this list of negative things because this is what we usually do.
3. ***Envy***-to look at someone's life or talents with an envious eye
4. ***Boast***-To talk about yourself, to use "I" way too much-unloving
5. ***Proud***-means to inflate or blow up, to look down on others-unloving
6. ***Rude***-To behave improperly, to not care for others, to be selfish
7. ***Self-seeking***-To only seek your own interests

8. *Not easily angered*-to stir up, to provoke, the hot head that everyone has to avoid because it seems that anything you say or do makes them mad-unloving
9. *Keeps no record of wrongs*-means keeps bad records
10. *Doesn't delight in evil*-I hope that you don't do this

And to end on a positive idea

11. *Rejoices with the truth*

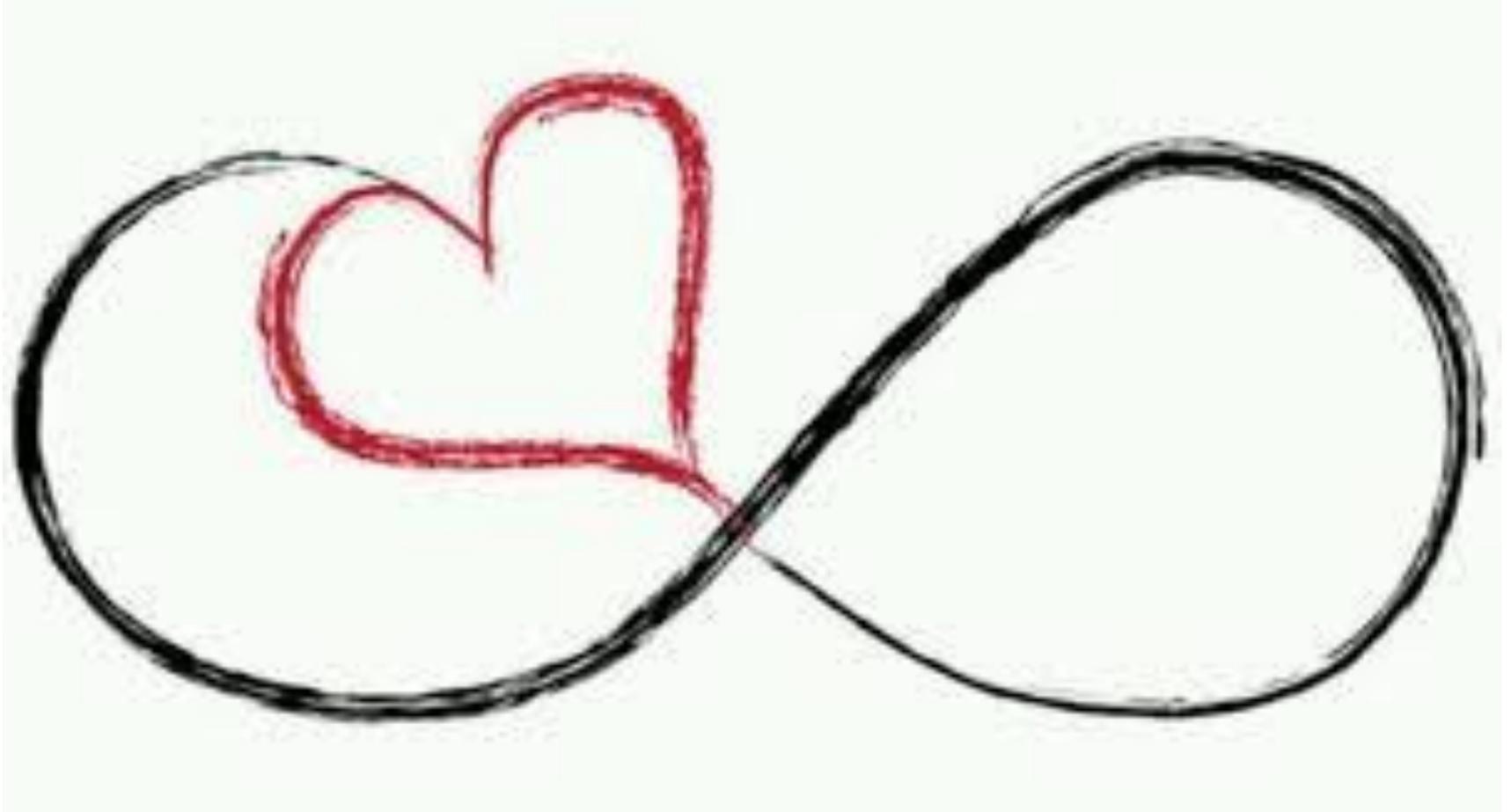
*Vs 7 Love always protects, trusts, hopes,
perseveres*

The very nature of love is that you do and
live these 4 things



III. The Eternal Nature of Love

Vss. 8-13



- Love is one of the things that will never pass away
- And practicing love will never fail you because it is on the top of God's list
- *Of all the things that we do, how we live on this earth*
- *What is eternal, what is important?*
- The big 3 will be in heaven *Faith, hope, and love*
- And these won't cease on this earth, the big 3 are things to focus on



- Love, there will always be love, that is the very nature of God
- And love is the greatest, most important thing in this life and eternity
- How are you doing in the area of love?
- As we went through the description of love, how did you do?
- When love is integrated into everything that we do, loving your spouse, studying at school, working at the job, taking care of the kids
- Life becomes more fulfilling, then we are following the command of Christ, “love one another”



But now faith, hope, love, abide these three;
but the greatest of these is love.

如今常存的有信, 望, 爱这三样, 其中最伟大的是爱

पर अब विश्वास, आशा, प्रेम थे तीनों स्थाई है, पर इन में सब से बड़ा प्रेम है।

Ahora, pues, permanecen estas tres virtudes: la fe, la esperanza
y el amor. Pero la más excelente de ellas es el amor.

Basi, sasa inadumu imani, tumaini, upendo, haya matatu;
na katika hayo lililo kuu ni upendo.

그런즉 믿음, 소망, 사랑, 이 세 가지는 항상 있을 것인데 그
중에 제일은 사랑이라

Осы үшеуі әрқашан да қалады. Ал солардың ішінде
сүйіспеншілік Мәңгі бақи ең бастысы болады.

I Cor 13 What does the Bible say about *how I Love my Spouse?*

In a couple days we will be celebrating Valentine's day
And it is a day about love between a man and a woman
I thought it would be good to talk about the love chapter in the Bible
2 times in the Bible husbands are told to love their wives, Eph 5, Col 3
There is a similar passage in I Peter 3 that says husbands are to be
considerate of their wives and to treat them with respect
What does it mean for the husband to love his wife?
God wants us to love our spouses, it is a command of 1st importance
The Bible has plenty to say about love, it is like a thread throughout the
Bible

It is what God has shown to mankind in sending his Son, Jesus
And there is one passage in I Cor 13 that describes love the best
The Love chapter is one of Paul's best known writings
As we think about God, love is what describes Him the best
In the Old Testament words like compassionate, kind,
and loving kindness were used
When the New Testament was written,
there wasn't a word that described this kind of love
Greeks words like **Eros**-passionate love between husband and wife.
Phelos-philadelphia brotherly love
And so the writers of the New Testament had to find a rare Greek word
Agape-*selfless, giving love that thinks about the other person* 1st
John 3:16 "*For God so loved the world that He gave his only son*"
Husbands as you think about loving your wives, think about giving
For all of us, you may not be a husband or wife, but you can,
you should still love one another

I. How can I Impress my Spouse? Vss. 1-3

We think there are many things we can do that are important
If I act in one of these ways I could really impress people
1. If I spoke in the language of men and angels
There are some who think that if they were super-spiritual and could
speak in the language of angels that would be impressive
I don't know of anyone who does this, it has to be very rare, if at all
People might be impressed with this, WOW you can speak like an angel!
Or if I was a really good speaker. If I could be a great teacher

People would look up to me, right?
No, without love it would only sound like a bell or gong
2. If I could discover the deep mysteries of God
Things that no one else knew, a special knowledge
That would really impress people, but it wouldn't impress God
3. If I had faith to move mountains
I could pray and move mountains, wow people would be impressed
I would be held high by people, but without love I would be nothing
4. If I gave everything that I had to the poor
If I was a great philanthropist, people would really be impressed
by my sacrifice, without love it would mean nothing
5. If I became a martyr, if I died for God
People may write about me in the history books
But I would gain nothing for all my sacrifices in life
*We think that in doing great things that the sacrifice is
noticed by God or by people*
But these things don't impress God at all
Love is impressive to God
Sacrificial, giving love is impressive to your spouse also
Where you think about his or her needs and nothing of your own
Love is the most important thing that you can do
It is the missing ingredient in many people's lives
Jesus quoted a Bible passage, "I desire mercy-love, not sacrifice"
The ultimate spiritual life isn't sacrifice-doing great things, it is love
You see, it is living a life of love!
If love isn't behind all your actions and sacrifices it is a waste of time,
money and energy
Love is the #1 priority
If you are making chicken noodle soup and forget to put in the chicken, it isn't chicken
noodle soup, all you have is water and noodles. You have forgotten the most important
ingredient in the soup
If you forget love in the Christian life, you are missing the most important
ingredient
If you don't have love in your marriage, you are missing the most
important thing in your marriage
II. Description of Love Vss. 4-7
We talk about love all the time, but what does it mean?

Here is a partial description, it becomes part of your personality

1. **Patient** It is not letting things-people bother you

It is holding those emotions in, it is letting go of those emotions

When your wife is getting ready you wait patiently

You don't yell or show that you are angry with her

When she is looking for something at the store, you wait

It seems that we get impatient with the people we love the most

Why is that?

This is 1st on the list, seems like it shows love the best

Parents, teach your children patience, live it before them

2. **Kind-mercy** it is connected to patience, they go together

We usually show kindness to people below us

When it is in your power to act, show kindness-mercy to others

We are also told what love isn't, maybe we are given this list of negative things because this is what we usually do.

This is the list of things that we need to avoid

3. **Envy**-to look at someone's life or talents with an envious eye-

To want what they have and try to cause their downfall, it's unloving

4. **Boast**-To talk about yourself, to use "I" way too much-unloving

5. **Proud**-means to inflate or blow up, to look down on others-unloving

6. **Rude**-To behave improperly, to not care for others, to be selfish

7. **Self-seeking**-To only seek your own interests

To use other people to your own advantage, to see people as things

8. **Not easily angered**-to stir up, to provoke, the hot head that everyone has to avoid because it seems that anything you say or do makes them mad-unloving

9. **Keeps no record of wrongs**-means keeps bad records

This is the person that can remember what you did 10 years ago

Do you remember all the bad things that people do to you-unloving

If you keep a record of your spouses wrongs, ask yourself, why do I do that?

So I can use it against them someday, I can make them feel terrible

10. **Doesn't delight in evil**-I hope that you don't do this

That you either like evil or enjoy doing evil

You need to run from this one

And to end on a positive idea

11. **Rejoices with the truth**

All truth is from God, lies are from the devil

Vs 7 ***Love always protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres***

The very nature of love is that you do and live these 4 things

Meditate on this verse to apply these things to your marriage and life

III. The Eternal Nature of Love Vss. 8-13

Love is one of the things that will never pass away

And practicing love will never fail you because it is on the top of God's list

There are many things that we think are important that will pass away

Prophesy-speaking the words of God to people

You will forget the words that I am speaking to you today

There will come a day when man will no longer teach God's Word

Tongues-Whether this is speaking another language or some special prayer language, it will no longer be heard

Knowledge-all that we study and pursue on this earth.

The years of study that I have done, that you have done, pass away

So what is important?

Of all the things that we do, how we live on this earth

What is eternal, what is important?

The big 3 will be in heaven ***Faith, hope, and love***

And these won't cease on this earth, the big 3 are things to focus on

We will continue to put our faith in Christ

Continue to have hope-assurance in God

Love, there will always be love, that is the very nature of God

And love is the greatest, most important thing in this life and eternity

How are you doing in the area of love?

As we went through the description of love, how did you do?

I challenge you to memorize Vss. 4-7, meditate on it

Make love the core of your being

When love is integrated into everything that we do, loving our spouse,

studying at school, working at the job, taking care of the kids

Life becomes more fulfilling, then we are following the command of Christ, "love one another"

Discussion Questions

How do I love my Spouse?

1. How do we have selfless giving for our spouses?

2. How can I be patient with my spouse?

3. What does it mean to be kind or merciful?

4. What is the opposite of envy, proud, boasting, rude, self seeking?

5. When do you get angry and have you asked God to help you when you are like that?

6. Do you keep a record of wrongs that your spouse does? Why does that damage a marriage?

7. How does love always protect, trust, hope, and preserve in a marriage?

8. In What areas do you need help in your marriage