

Living in Love Dying to Self

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

What exactly is love?

Love is warm-hearted kindness. It means that you want (God's) best for another person and you are willing to take steps to ensure it. It means putting another person's interests above your own.

*The opposite of love is **selfishness.***

What should we do?

1. Admit your selfish heart to God, then practice the discipline of repentance.

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
(Luke 9:23)

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
(Galatians 5:24)

What should we do?

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to produce the love of Christ in you.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love...

(Galatians 5:22)

What should we do?

3. Strive to understand the love of Christ.

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep (Christ's) love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

(Ephesians 3:18-19, NLT)