



Love: Addressing Self-Focus

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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. 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. 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.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

What motivates you, matters to God

Agape: A pure, willful, unchanging, unconditional, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another's highest good.

Love looks a certain way

**Agape:
“U before I” not “I before U”**

Love is permanent

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Your love for others will show, when your relationship with God grows

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Matthew 1:5-6

**Bottom Line:
Your love for others will show, when
your relationship with God grows.**

1. On a scale of one to ten how motivated are you in the opening weeks of 2021?
2. What are you motivated to see happen this year? How are you going to accomplish it?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.** What is the key motivator that Paul mentions in each verse?
4. According to the above verses, what is the result of doing these amazing things but having the wrong motivation?
5. Share some occasions when you did the right things for the wrong reasons. What was the result?
6. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.** How does this definition of love compare to what we see love defined as today? What are the similarities and differences?
7. In what specific areas of the Bible do you see this type of love demonstrated. In what areas of your life do you see this type of love demonstrated?
8. How will you grow this type of love for God and others in 2021? What specific things will you do to make this happen?
9. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-12.** Discuss what you think Paul means in these verses?

Bottom Line: Your love for others will show, when your relationship with God grows.