

CATALYST

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Love

- ▶ Love is Essential
- ▶ Love is Sacrificial

- ▶ Love is not
- ▶ without love

- ▶ Love is Unreasonable
- ▶ Love is Wild

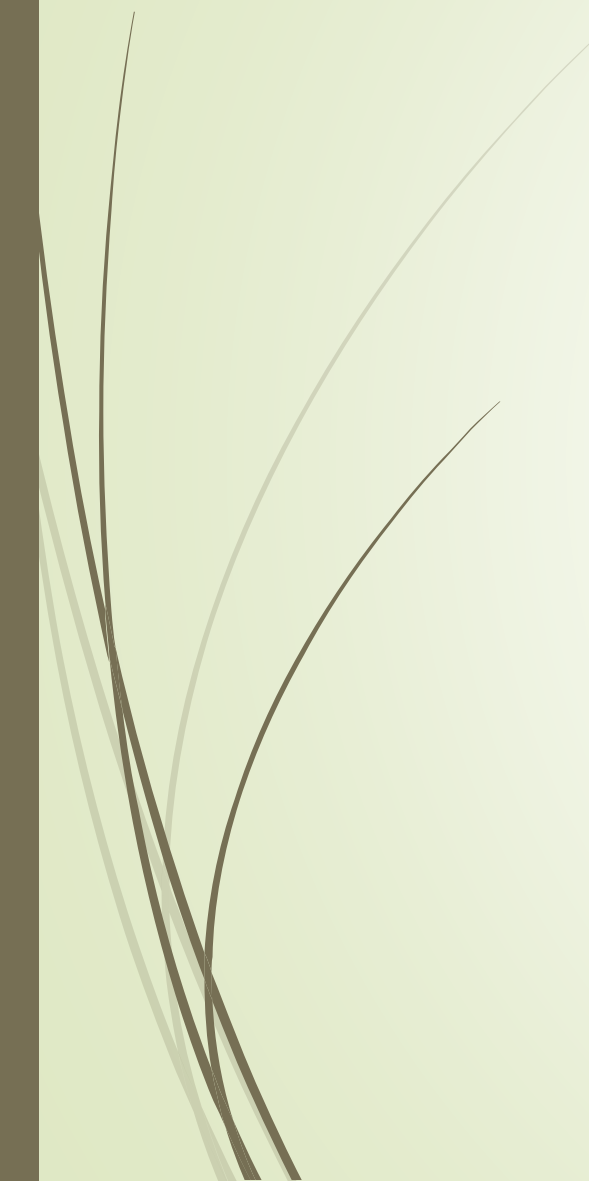


Love





Love





and the word became flesh



Love

God loved the world

so much that he gave his one and only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
will not perish
but have eternal life.

God sent his Son into the world
not to judge the world,
but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17



Fruits of the Spirit





Fruits of the Spirit



Patience



Faithfulness



Gentleness



Goodness



Joy



Peace



Kindness



Self-Control



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1 Cor 13:4-8

Love is **patient** and **kind**. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but **rejoices** whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses **faith**, is always **hopeful**, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless.

But love will last forever!



The Greatest Command

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Matt 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לְבָבְךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ

Deuteronomy 6:4-5



John 13:33-34

A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another:

just as I have loved you,

you also are to love one another.

By this all people will know that you are my
disciples,

if you have love for one another.



1 Cor 13:1-3

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but

if I didn't love others, I would be nothing.

If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but

if I didn't love others, I would have nothing.



James 2:17,20

So you see, faith by itself isn't enough.

Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?



1 John 4:7-21

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.



1 John 4:7-21

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.



1 John 4:7-21

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first. If someone says, "I love God," but hates a brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their brothers and sisters



Love is measurable?

And I pray that you,
being **rooted in love**,
may be able to grasp
how wide and long and
high and deep is
the love of Christ
Ephesians 3:18-19



Love is measurable

by what we are willing to give up for it

Since God did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Rom 8:32



Love is measurable

by what we are willing to give up for it

Also

by what we are **not** willing to give up for it



Love is Sacrificial

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.

Jesus called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Mark 12:43-44



Love is Sacrificial

The world will little note, nor long remember
what we say here;
while it can never forget
what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, we here
be dedicated
to the great task remaining before us.

Abraham Linclon



Love is Sacrificial

The world doesn't need a better sermon on love. It needs a better demonstration of it.





Love is Sacrificial

*23 The desire of the righteous ends only in good;
the expectation of the wicked in wrath.*

*24 One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*

*25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.*

*26 The people curse him who holds back grain,
but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.*

*28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.*

Proverbs 11:23-26,28



Sacrificial living

1. God provides
2. We receive & We recognize the gift
3. We give as our Father gave to us



Receive and Recognize the gift

Why is this so difficult for us?





Receive and Recognize the gift

Why is this so difficult for us?

Broken view #1: I earned this, it's mine!

Right view: God gave this. He is good. I receive freely, I give freely.

Broken view #2: More blessing = more for me.

Broken view #3: Mooching is bad and receiving is the same.

Broken view #4: I can't give because I don't have much.

Control, trade, power



Receive and Recognize the gift

"Give us today our daily bread"

- **Jesus, Matthew 6:11**

"Blessed are the spiritually poor, the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them"

- **Jesus, Matthew 5:3**

"Unless you receive His kingdom as a child you cannot enter it."

- **Jesus, Matthew 18:3**

A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.

- **Jesus, John 3:27**



Receive and Recognize the gift

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

1 Timothy 6:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:16-17

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance

Acts 2:1-47

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

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