

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Paul teaches the church in Colossians 3:5-14 (NIV):

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ...

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Part of being a person of love is to intentionally put to death those things that are of the earthly nature. Just as you have to put on and off clothes each day, so we have to intentionally put off sin and put on love.

Are there any of these earthly qualities that you need to put off today?

Who might you need to forgive today? Ask the Lord to help you and give you HIS forgiveness for that person.



"Becoming" • Week 2

Galatians 5:22 - *The fruit of the Spirit is love....*

In such chaotic times as this current cultural moment, the Church has a different and better way of life to offer the world. The fruit of the Spirit is about living life by the Spirit of God in order to become the kind of person this world needs.

This series of devotionals is designed to take us deeper into what God has for us each week, based on the topic of the previous Sunday's teaching.

This week we explore the first fruit of the Spirit - love.

Instructions: this could be a simple format for your prayer time:

1. Begin with a prayer of approach, asking God to reveal himself to you and to take you deeper into relationship with him.
2. Come with an attitude of humility, submission, and learning, so that you're ready to obey what God says.
3. Pray the Scripture for that day. Read it slowly. What stands out to you? What strikes you? Read it a second time slowly.
4. Keep note throughout the day how you experience God's love for you. Be thinking about what you could share with someone else regarding the goodness and love of God.

Friday, July 17, 2026

Mother Teresa said, "We cannot do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

Jesus said in Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV) - "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
² "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Take a moment to ask God to give you someone to whom you can show a very practical, small act of love today. Ask him for creativity and wisdom, and that he would get the glory and attention from your small act.

Thursday, July 16, 2026

We're going to read the same verses as yesterday. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV) -

⁴ 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. ⁸ Love never fails.

1. Again - imagine the God of the universe treating you with this kind of love. How does that make you feel?

2. Again - which of these areas is the Lord inviting you to grow in love?

Monday, July 13, 2026

The first question to consider, really, is do you WANT to become a person characterized by the quality of love?

1 John 4:9-10: *⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

To become a person of love, we must be rooted in the love that God has for us. Take a moment to imagine yourself as some kind of tree or your favorite plant. Imagine your roots sinking deeper into God's love, winding, searching - for water, for nourishment, for life.

In this exercise, do you feel any resistance or push back? Invite Jesus into that and ask him to take care of it.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV) -

¹If 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. ²If 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. ³If 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.

This chapter is part of Paul's instructions to the church in Corinth on living in the power of the Spirit.

What do these verses say about the importance of love?

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV) -

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails.

Paul continues his teaching to the Corinthians on what love looks like in real life.

1. First of all, imagine Jesus loving you like this. Let him impart his love to you.

2. In which of these qualities do you sense the Lord inviting to grow?