

Love

Scripture: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ~ 1 John 4:10

What is love? What does love look like? What are the characteristics of love? These are a few of the questions I believe may have run through the mind of the apostle John. John, who was often referred to as the disciple Jesus loved, is the one writing this passage of scripture. I often believe that John might have had a loveless epidemic happening in day like we are experiencing in our world today. People really don't know what love means. We use the term so loosely that we have dumbed down its true meaning. Is loving pizza the same as loving your parents? Is the love of sports or ice-cream the same as loving God? In short, no it is not. We have lost the reality of what love really is. The apostle Paul in *1 Cor. 13* gives us the true picture of love. He gives us the characteristics, as well as, an example of what love should in fact look like. These were the attributes Jesus himself displayed.

The apostle Paul said that "love is patient. It is kind. It does not envy or get jealous. It does not brag or become arrogant. Does not act in an inappropriate way. Love never seeks its own desires only. It is not selfish. It is not easily angered. It keeps no records of wrong. Does not promote wrong things, but rejoiced in honesty and truth. It will bear all things, believe, hope, and endure all things. It never fails. In fact out of faith, hope, and love, the greatest of all is love." Wow what a thought. This is a totally different perspective of love than we often are painted. It means when we are done wrong we forgive, but don't hold it over their head. When our friends hurt us, we still love them. When we could say, "I told you so", we don't since love is not about arrogance. Love is about the preference of others. Its about non-selfish acts. Serving rather than being served displays love. Are you truly in love with God or your parents and friend? Or do you love them like you do pizza, ice-cream, ballgames, and cellphones?

Prayer: *Lord, please help me to display your kind of love to those around me. In Jesus name, Amen!*

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