

IS THIS LOVE?

Unpacking the Meaning of Love through 1 Corinthians 13

Join us for a meaningful journey of devotion as we explore the true essence of love.

Over the next five days, we will reflect on the ten attributes of love, both in the morning and in the evening, and discover practical ways to embody these qualities in our daily lives.



*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. 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. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. – **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 NIV***

PATIENCE

Endurance with Purpose

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

– 2 Peter 3:9 ESV

Patience is not merely waiting; it's waiting with a purpose. When we consider how God's patience towards us leads to repentance and restoration, we find inspiration to emulate this quality in our own lives.

As we strive to cultivate patience, let's keep in mind that good things come to those who wait. Let's stay focused on our purpose and trust the journey. With perseverance, patience, and faith, we can achieve great things for Him.

APPLICATION

- How do you typically respond to waiting or delays?
- In what areas of your life do you need to cultivate more patience?

PRAYER

Dear God, may we learn to embrace the virtue of patience and trust in your perfect timing, Lord, as we grow and mature in our faith. Amen.

KINDNESS

A Reflection of God's Character

Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.

– Proverbs 11:17 NIV

Kindness is a beautiful reflection of God's love and compassion for us. When we choose to extend kindness to others, we not only make their day a little brighter, but we also bring a piece of heaven down to earth.

Let us commit ourselves to showing God's kindness to everyone we meet, whether they are strangers or friends. As we do so, we will not only make the world a better place but also inspire others to do the same. Remember, even the smallest act of kindness can change someone's life forever.

APPLICATION

- In what ways can you intentionally show kindness to others, even when it's difficult?
- How does kindness benefit the recipient and the giver?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with Your kindness so that we may reflect Your love to a hurting world. Help us to show compassion and grace to those in need. Amen.

BENEVOLENCE

Overcoming Envy

▮ *A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.*
– **Proverbs 14:30 ESV**

Envy can be a powerful force that robs us of contentment and joy. When we constantly compare ourselves to others and focus on what we lack, it's easy to feel bitter and resentful. However, by cultivating a heart of gratitude, we can shift our perspective and find true fulfillment.

Choosing gratitude means recognizing the blessings in our lives and being thankful for them. When we adopt this mindset, we begin to see the world in a different way. Instead of letting envy control your life, choose to cultivate gratitude and experience the happiness and contentment that come with it.

APPLICATION

- How can focusing on gratitude help you combat feelings of envy?
- What steps can you take to cultivate contentment and satisfaction with what you have?

PRAYER

Lord, teach us to rejoice in the blessings of others and find true fulfillment in You alone. May our hearts overflow with gratitude for Your abundant goodness. Amen.

MODESTY

Finding Strength in Weakness

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
— 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

When we boast, we try to elevate ourselves above others, and we forget that we are all equal in the eyes of God. When we are humble, we become more compassionate, understanding, and empathetic towards others, which strengthens our relationships and brings us closer to Him.

We are all weak and imperfect. It is through our weaknesses that we can grow and learn to become better versions of ourselves. Next time we are tempted to boast, let us take a moment to reflect on our blessings and give thanks to God for his grace.

APPLICATION

- How can acknowledging your weaknesses lead to a deeper reliance on God's strength?
- What does it mean to boast in the Lord, as Scripture instructs us?

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to boast not in ourselves but in Your grace and power at work within us. Teach us to find strength in our weaknesses, knowing that Your power is made perfect in our weakness. Amen.

HUMILITY

Guarding Against Arrogance

The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

– Proverbs 8:13 ESV

Arrogance stems from a distorted self-image that makes us believe we are better than others. When we are arrogant, we fail to see the value in others and dismiss their perspectives. This can lead to poor decision-making, strained relationships, and missed opportunities.

However, by embracing humility, we can overcome the dangers of arrogance and unlock a path to wisdom and understanding. When we acknowledge our limitations and recognize the strengths of others, we open ourselves up to new ideas and perspectives.

APPLICATION

- How does arrogance manifest in your thoughts or actions?
- How can humility and a healthy fear of the Lord guard against arrogance?

PRAYER

Dear God, deliver us from the trap of arrogance. Help us to walk humbly in Your ways, seeking wisdom. May our hearts be filled with reverence for You, knowing that true greatness is found in humility. Amen.

HONOR

Reflecting God's Love

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

– Romans 12:9-11 ESV

Honoring others is an act of love that reflects the very essence of God's character. It is a beautiful way to express our genuine care and respect for those around us. When we honor others, we acknowledge their value and worth, regardless of their status or position.

Reflecting on how genuine love seeks to honor and respect those around us can inspire us to be more intentional in our relationships. When we choose to honor others, we create a positive and uplifting environment where everyone feels valued and appreciated.

APPLICATION

- In what ways can you show honor and respect to those you interact with daily?
- Why is honoring others important in building strong and healthy relationships?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, teach us to honor and respect others as You have honored and loved us. May our words and actions reflect Your love to a watching world. Amen.

UNITY

Embracing Harmony

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
– **Philippians 2:3-4 ESV**

Have you ever noticed how selfishness can disrupt the unity and harmony that love seeks to cultivate? When we only think of ourselves, we tend to ignore the needs and feelings of those around us. However, when we make a conscious effort to prioritize the needs of others over our own, we create a space for love and kindness to flourish.

Putting others first can be challenging, especially in a society that often encourages us to focus on our own success and happiness. But true fulfillment comes not from selfish gain, but from the joy of serving others.

APPLICATION

- How can prioritizing the needs of others contribute to greater unity and harmony?
- What steps can you take to cultivate a spirit of selflessness in your relationships and interactions?

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to set aside selfish ambition and pride. Teach us to embrace humility and selflessness, following the example of Your Son. May we be instruments of Your love and unity in the world. Amen.

GENTLENESS

Cultivating Emotional Stability

Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

– Proverbs 16:32 ESV

When we face challenges in life, it can be difficult to remain calm and composed. However, it is precisely in these moments that emotional stability becomes a hallmark of love. By managing our emotions and responding with gentleness and patience, we not only overcome our obstacles but also inspire those around us to do the same.

Let us strive to be beacons of emotional stability, spreading love and positivity wherever we go. Remember, with a calm and steady heart, we can conquer anything!

APPLICATION

- Why is emotional stability important in building healthy relationships?
- What practices or habits can help you cultivate greater emotional stability?

PRAYER

Lord, grant us the strength and wisdom to manage our emotions with grace and gentleness. Help us to respond to challenges with patience and self-control. May our lives be a testimony to Your faithfulness and grace. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

Letting Go of Resentment

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
— **Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV**

Forgiveness is not just a choice, but a powerful tool that can transform our lives. It has the power to free us from the weight of anger, bitterness, and resentment, and open up new pathways for love and compassion.

By extending grace to others, we mirror the boundless love that God has for us. Let us embrace the transformative power of forgiveness and bask in the light of a life lived with love and compassion.

APPLICATION

- How does holding onto resentment affect your emotional and spiritual well-being?
- Is there someone in your life whom you need to forgive?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, grant us the strength and courage to forgive as You have forgiven us. Help us to release bitterness and resentment, extending grace and mercy to those who have wronged us. May Your love and forgiveness flow through us, bringing healing and reconciliation to broken relationships. Amen.

TRUTH

How Love Rejoices

[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

– 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 NIV

Love is a powerful force that goes beyond mere emotions or feelings. It is a commitment to what is true and right. Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but instead, it celebrates and aligns itself with the truth. Love is a person: Jesus.

In a world where deceit and falsehoods are all too common, love stands as a beacon of light, upholding honesty and integrity. When we choose to love others the way Jesus loves us, we not only bring joy and happiness to their lives but also inspire them to do the same.

APPLICATION

- How does the concept of love rejoicing with the truth challenge your perspective on relationships and interactions with others?
- Where do you struggle to align your actions with the truth? How can you cultivate a deeper commitment to integrity and honesty in those areas?

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the gift of love. Help us embody it in our daily lives, upholding honesty and integrity. Guide us to seek what is right and just. Amen.

