



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 12, 2023

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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What is True Love?

“*Love*” is one of the most loosely-used words in the English language. This creates a lot of confusion about what true love really is. In **1 Corinthians 13:8**, the apostle Paul said, “*Love never fails.*” Yet many times couples will say they have fallen out of love with one another. Such an attitude shows that they never really understood how God defines love.

Most people think of love as a strong, warm feeling of affection for someone or something. Certainly there is an emotional aspect to love. Between spouses, there are even romantic feelings. But in the Bible, love is not just something one feels, it is a decision of the will to help others even if one must sacrifice of oneself to do so. That’s how God and Christ love us and that’s how we should love others. In **1 John 3:16-18**, we read, “*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*” In Scripture, love is a verb. It is shown in how we live and in how we treat others (**1 Cor. 13:4-8**).

So it is not enough just to say, “*I love you*” (although we certainly should say that to our loved ones). We must back those words up with genuine, loving actions. When we consistently treat others with kindness, respect, and love, the right feelings will naturally follow. Let us resolve to be truly loving people.

Travis L. Quertermous
Dexter church of Christ
Dexter, MO

I Know What Love Is...

You may have seen the recent commercial by the Ad Council that tells us love has no limits. It shows people behind an x-ray screen embracing only showing their skeletal outlines. The people emerge from the behind to reveal they are a same sex couple, to a cheering crowd. The scene is redone with people of different races, religions and ages. Each one is accompanied by the text; love has no gender, love has no race, love has no disability, love has no religion, love has no labels. The ad campaign claims to combat what is seen as bias in our world today.

It got me to thinking about how the world is trying to redefine love. We hear the argument in our world to today, *“How a person can be against two people who love one another? To try to put limits on love is wrong.”*

But how does the Bible label love?

“Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1st Corinthians 13:4-7).

Some things stick out to me in this passage are in conflict with the world’s definition of love. The world says you should cheer when someone is in sin, but Biblical love does not rejoice in unrighteousness. The world says love can act anyway it wants, but Biblical love never acts unbecomingly. The world says should be proud of your lifestyle, but Biblical love does not brag. The world says you are offensive and should be shunned if you don’t accept what is accepts, but Biblical love does not take into account a wrong suffered. The world says you should accept any belief no matter if it is valid or not, but Biblical love rejoices with truth.

There is a saying, *“He who controls the language, controls the masses.”* When it comes to love, who makes the definition, God, who is love, or the world who does not know him?

Barry Haynes
Hope AR