



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 11 2024

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
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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
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Why Love?

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:13).

Have you ever wondered why it is that love is the greatest? I mean, faith and hope are two powerful elements of our Christian lives. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (**Heb. 11:4**). Hope plays a part in anchoring our soul (**Heb. 6:19**). But love is more powerful. Love is the root of faith and hope. We have faith and hope only in that which we love. *“Many waters cannot quench love” (Song of Solomon 8:7). “Love never fails” (1 Cor. 13:8).*

Paul lists several Christian responsibilities in **Col 2:12-13**; duties like kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness. Then after giving the list, in **verse 14**, Paul through inspiration writes: *“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”* Love is what cements all of the Christian virtues together, helping to make our lives complete. If we are to ever express kindness and forgiveness, we must first possess love. Love takes action and does good things. *“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).*

And think about this: faith and hope are for the here and now, but love will be forever. Love is something that has always been around – and always will be. God, who is eternal (**Psa. 90:2**) is also described in **1 John 4:8** as love. God is love. He always has been and He always will be love. His love transcends all time and temporality (**Rom. 8:35-38**). *“I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jer. 31:3). “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever” (Psa. 136:1, ESV).*

Love is powerful. Love is beneficial. Love is eternal. It seems to me that love is really important. Maybe it's time we started expressing and practicing love more.

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” (1 Pet. 1:22).

Edd Sterchi
Broadway church of Christ
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