



WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

THE MARK | Rising Toward God's Standard of Love

RECEIVE

Take a few moments to read 1 Corinthians 13. Read it slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully. Read it in such a way you believe the Holy Spirit is trying to speak to you through it...Because you know what? The Holy Spirit is trying to speak to you through it.

REFLECT

1. Think of a relationship you've known that struck you as truly reMARKable. What made that relationship different from other more regular relationships?
2. Pastor Dan suggested that one reason we don't have more of these remarkable relationships is because we (or others) have not "grown up" in the ways we need. Instead, we're still wound up in "childish" ways. Do you agree with this or not?

3. On a scale of 1 (Very Immature Here) to 5 (Very Mature Here) how would you rate yourself in relation to the 1 Corinthians 13 picture of love toward others?

- I am patient and kind to most everyone
- I am not envious, boastful, or proud
- I am not rude or self-seeking
- I am not easily angered
- I keep no record of wrongs
- I am more inclined to rejoice when people face the truth than to delight when bad consequences befall them for their failings
- I protect others from harm wherever I can
- I trust and look for God's work in others
- I hope and pray faithfully for God to bless and grow others
- I persevere in my love for imperfect people

4. How much importance do you sense the Bible places on love? How does that seem to rank with the other attitudes and behaviors the Scriptures commend?

5. How do you respond to the claim that "love lasts like nothing else"? What are some evidences to support your thought on this?

RESPOND

6. What is one regular relationship you have that you wish could become more remarkable?

7. What is one thing you might do this week to give your heart-string toward that person more length and strength?

8. As you close your time with Jesus today, use the following experience as a prayer towards the person you are becoming by God's grace. Pray through this passage twice. As you pray, place your name where ever you see the word [LOVE].

[LOVE] is patient and kind; [LOVE] does not envy or boast; [LOVE] is not arrogant or rude. [LOVE] does not insist on its own way; [LOVE] is not irritable or resentful; [LOVE] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, [LOVE] rejoices with the Truth. [LOVE] bears all things, [LOVE] believes all things, [LOVE] hopes all things, [LOVE] endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13 | New International Version

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.

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.