



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### Love is... May 18-20, 2019

*(1 Corinthians 13) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not 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 have not love, I am nothing. {3} If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not 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 is not rude, 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 perfection comes, the imperfect 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 childish ways behind me. {12} Now we see but a poor 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. Agree/disagree: "Love is...letting someone sleep late."  
**Yes, by being quiet around the house; No, if it means they'll be late for work. (Yes for teens, no for adults?)**
2. In between two chapters (1 Cor. 12&14) that deal with spiritual gifts, the Holy Spirit has St. Paul insert a chapter on love. Why?  
**The Corinthians were overemphasizing spiritual gifts like tongues. They were gifted but weren't showing love to one another (e.g. agape meals were free-for-all, with some being overlooked.) Gifts and talents need to be put to use in a spirit of love or they cause more harm than good.**

3. Give one real life example for any of these qualities of love:  
*Love is patient, **not honking at the car ahead of me.**  
love is kind. **Writing a note of appreciation to the paperboy**  
It does not envy, **Being happy that my spouse is off, while I work.**  
it does not boast, **My conversations are not about me.**  
it is not proud. **I don't need to get the credit for a job well done.**  
It is not rude, **treating family worse than you treat guests**  
it is not self-seeking, **Needing to win the argument**  
it is not easily angered, **Getting upset by petty things**  
it keeps no record of wrongs. **Holding a grudge for past offenses**  
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.  
It always protects, **speaking up for the reputation of another**  
always trusts, **doesn't assume she has evil motives**  
always hopes, **Sees the bright side**  
always perseveres. **Even when a child doesn't appreciate you.***

4. Which of these qualities of love do you most need to work on this week? **A time for confession and transparency in your group.**
5. Give an example of how Jesus displayed any of these qualities of love in his life. **Patiently instructing his "slow" disciples; gave his time to heal the crowds; was not rude to those who taunted him (soldiers, Pilate); came to serve, not be served; though God, still humbled himself for those who didn't deserve anything good. Spoke the truth; Doesn't hold our sins vs. us. Persevered all the way to the cross.**
6. Jesus has given you his perfect life. How does that impact your desire/ability to love others? **Jesus has given us a new status with God. He recreates us in his image. Believing that fact empowers us to live that fact. Christ's love is our model and motivation.**
7. According to vv. 8-12, how will life in heaven be different/better than life on earth? **There will be no need for prophecy or tongues in heaven. We will have a much more complete knowledge of God and his ways. We will see Jesus face to face.**
8. Why do you think that Paul said that love is greater than faith or hope? **That's hard to say. Maybe because the Bible says that God is love. Or that love is so critical to God's relationship to us and us to others. We will experience perfect love in heaven.**
9. Where is the Law in this section? Where is the Gospel?  
**Paul's description of love is Law. It's what God demands of us. However, if we import passages like 1 John 4:8-10, we can see God who is love has shown us love by not holding our sins against us. This is gospel. In addition, through faith, Christ's perfect love is the righteousness God has given us credit for.**