

# **Messy Love**

The Greatest Of These Is Love  
1 Corinthians 13:8-13

# Redemptive Love

**1 Corinthians 13:8-13** *Love never fails.* But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. **And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love** (NKJV).

# God's Love In Heaven And Earth

- (1)** Christ in us and in Heaven is the place that is dominated by His love that will never end.
- (2)** Today we can experience the closeness and care of the Lord. But IN HEAVEN we will see God FACE TO FACE.
- (3)** In Heaven we will have increasing knowledge about God.

# Love Is Permanent



**1 Corinthians 13:8** *Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.*

# Our Priority Is Always Love

**1 Corinthians 13:9-10** *Now we know only a little, and even the gift of prophecy reveals little! But when the end comes, these special gifts will all disappear (NLT).*

# Love Matures



**1 Corinthians 13:11** *It's like this: When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I grew up, I put away childish things (NLT).*

# What Is The Criteria For Being A Mature Person?

## 1. Self-Perception

Self-regard – who we are in Christ

Self-actualization – what is our Godly purpose; design; uniqueness

Self-awareness – we know what is going on inside us; we are able to communicate this well

## 2. Stress Management

Flexibility – with structure, boundaries with clear YES and NO

Stress Tolerance –skills handling good/bad stress; resourcing spiritual gifts

Optimism – attitude with a positive outlook; trust in the Lord; we have a biblical viewpoint of life

### **3. Self-Expression**

Emotional/Spiritual Expression – communication with others; the Lord

Assertiveness – conflict skills; letting people know your needs

Interdependence – we are able to rely on others and ourselves

### **4. Decision Making**

Problem Solving – decision making; able to discern the will of the Lord

Reality Testing – real world view; real vs fantasy; practical; testing spirits

Impulse Control – delayed gratification; self-control; disciplined

### **5. Interpersonal**

Interpersonal Relationships – connectiveness and involved with others

Empathy – caring; understanding; sensitivity

Community Responsibility – concern for the world; World Missions

# Love Is Greater



**1 Corinthians 13:12** *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 (NIV)*

# The Greatest Is Love



**1 Corinthians 13:13** *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love (NKJV)*

# Messy Love



**FAITH** is the foundation and content of God's message;  
Faith informs action; tells why we do what we do

**HOPE** is the attitude and focus; Hope influences action;  
motivates us to act

**LOVE** is the action. LOVE is a VERB! Love never fails.

**(2 Corinthians 5:14-15)**

# The Love Test

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8** **Love** never gives up. **Love** cares more for others than for self. **Love** doesn't want what it doesn't have. **Love** doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. **Love** never dies (THE MESSAGE).  
Put your name in where the word "love" is being used or implied in this passage.

