

THE POWER OF LOVE

Making Love: Part 1

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“Let love be your greatest aim!” (1 Corinthians 14:1a, The Living Bible)

Without Love...

1. All I say is **INEFFECTIVE**.

“If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn’t love others, I would only be making noise.” (1 Corinthians 13:1, The Living Bible, Paraphrased)

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.” (Ephesians 4:15, NIV)

2. All I know is **INCOMPLETE**.

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...but do not have love, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:2a, NIV)

“...knowledge, however, puffs a person up with pride; but love builds up.” (1 Corinthians 8:1, GNB)

3. All I believe is **INSUFFICIENT**.

“...if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:2b, NLT)

“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” (Galatians 5:6b, NIV)

4. All I give is **INSIGNIFICANT**.

“If I give all I possess to the poor...but do not have love, I gain nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:3, NIV)

“The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them.” (John 15:13, GNB)

5. All I accomplish is **INADEQUATE**.

“...if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn’t love others, it would be of no value whatever.” (1 Corinthians 13:3, The Living Bible)

“And so the Lord says, “These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...” (Isaiah 29:13, NLT)

THE PRINCIPLES OF LOVE

“Most of all, let love guide your life.” (Colossians 3:14a, The Living Bible)

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” (1 Corinthians 13:4–7, NLT)

1. Love is a CHOICE not a chance.

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (John 13:34–35, NLT)

2. Love is an ACTION not a reaction.

“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” (1 John 3:18, NLT)

3. Love is a PERSON not a purpose.

“God is love...God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. Real love isn’t our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven.” (1 John 4:8–10, CEV)

ACTION STEP

Read one of the recommended books!