

## Unite Gainesville: Love

With all that is happening in our city and around our nation, what can we do?

We can love.

- How do we unite our city? – LOVE
- How do we unite our nation? – LOVE
- How do we unite people racially? – LOVE
- How do we win our city to Jesus? – LOVE

Love is the answer.

But not just any kind of love; it's Gods love working in us and through us.

### **Mark 12:28-31 NIV**

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

<sup>29</sup> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'<sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

### **I Corinthians 13:13 NIV**

<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

#### **I. The Most Important Thing**

- All the promises of God are received by faith.
- Without faith it is impossible to please God.
  - Faith does not work without love.

#### **II. The Right Foundation for Our Lives**

Love is the foundation that must be laid in our lives for everything else to work right.

### **Mathew 24:12 KJV**

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many will wax cold.

- How do we keep ourselves in the love of God?
  - Read about love.
  - Study the Bible on love.
  - Ask God to help you grow in love.
  - Seek to understand His love better and walk in love when hate is all around you.

### **III. God's Definition of Love**

#### **I Corinthians 13:3-10 Message**

<sup>3-7</sup> If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

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.  
<sup>8-10</sup> Love never dies...

### **IV. 3 Areas to Focus to Grow in God's Love**

1. Faith – Faith that moves mountains. Now is your time to trust God and believe Him for the impossible. Faith works by love.
2. Generosity – Generosity is when you give over and above what is required. It includes giving of your time, treasure, and talent. Generosity is about letting people be a part of your life. The reason we give is out of love.
3. Discipleship – The reason we make disciples is out of love.

#### **2 Timothy 2:2 NIV**

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

**V. How Do We Make Disciples?**

1. Embrace new people. Include new people as much as you can. If you have 10 people around, try to have 2-3 people that are newer to your group.
2. Have fun times at your home where you can relax and invite new people as well. Get-togethers like barbeques and game nights are opportunities for relationships and bonds to be formed.
3. Ask people out for coffee or lunch. Ask them a simple question. What is the best thing happening in your life? What is the greatest challenge you are facing?
4. Set up personal bible studies for those who are willing. If you invite someone new to church, just commit to meeting weekly for a season, helping them with their spiritual questions and getting used to the bible.
5. Study on love and ask God to help you use His love to invest in others.

**John 15:13 NIV**

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.