

1. What is love?

A. Love is an action, not an emotion

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

B. Love is a spiritual barometer

1 Corinthians 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Thessalonians 1:3

...constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ...

Colossians 1:4-5

since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven...

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

2. Who are we to love?

- A. We are called to love God
- B. We are called to love people

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 15:12

This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. John 15:17

This I command you, that you love one another.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

3. How are we to love?

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

A. Our ability to love comes from first being loved.

1 John 4:19

We love, because He first loved us.

1 John 3:18

Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

B. Our ability to love comes from God gifting us to love in actions

Romans 12:9

Let love be without hypocrisy...

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

C. Our ability to love comes from God growing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us.

How are you doing at loving?

- Are you confident in His love for you?
- Are you mature enough to choose to love without feelings?
- Are you walking with God so the fruit of love is being produced in you?

