

## **The Motivating Factor is LOVE. (November 27, 2025)**

“But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13)

The Scriptures are clear; the greatest motivating factor of life is true, Christ-like love. It is because of this love that we do the hard spiritual and emotional work of transforming the inner man. It is love that motivates us to consider our relationship skills and impact. And it is God’s love in Christ that allows us to be honest with ourselves in all our relational successes and failures.

But the “agape” love of God is an exceedingly high standard. This love will not permit me to leak my unprocessed emotions onto unsuspecting bystanders. It will not allow me to project my flesh, my shadow, or my past experiences onto the person in front of me. And it will not let me replace action with nostalgia, sentiment, or mere intention. God’s love tolerates no excuses.

Those who love well can be present with and attentive to the person they are relating with at the current moment. And if they find that past trauma, current stress, or anxieties around the future are negatively impacting those relationships and interactions, those who love well will do the work necessary to address the trauma, stress, and anxiety so they do not transmit those experiences onto those they love. God’s love will motivate and empower us to do the work.