



What is Love?

Pastor Jeremy McGarity

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love ..."

GALATIANS 5:22 | NIV

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

1 JOHN 4:9-11 | NIV

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is LOVE."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 | NIV

I. Popular Misconceptions

- 1 Love is a feeling .
- 2 Love is uncontrollable .
- 3 Love is license .

II. What God Says About Love

- 1 Love is a choice .

"And over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them all together ..."

COLOSSIANS 3:14 | NIV

Greek: **Ἐνδύο**: to willfully put on, as in clothing.

2 Love is action.

"... let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions."

1 JOHN 3:18 | LB

III. How To Grow In Love (1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8)

1 The way that you act can change the way that you feel.

"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

2 Practice the love Languages.

- Words of Affirmation
- Quality Time
- Receiving Gifts
- Acts of Service
- Physical Touch

"Love is patient and kind."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4 | NLT

"Stop being mean, bad-tempered, and angry. Quarreling, harsh words, and dislike of others should have no place in your lives. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ."

EPHESIANS 4:31-32 | LB

"LOVE NEVER FAILS ..."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8 | NIV

NIV = NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, LB = LIVING BIBLE,
NLT = NEW LIVING TRANSLATION.

Small Group Questions

- 1** Share one thing that stood out to you in this week's sermon and why?
- 2** Have you ever experienced a true act of love by a friend, neighbor or stranger? Share what happened and how it inspired you to love like that.
- 3** Have you ever had a time when loving someone was not a natural response? Share about that experience and how God changed you through that hard choice of choosing to love regardless of any feelings you may have.
- 4** Close your group by reading 1 Corinthians 13: 4 -7. How is God challenging you to love differently this Christmas season by reading this verse?
- 5** How can we be praying for you this week?