

INTRODUCTION: Message - "Love" (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

I love my wife... I love these pants... I love tacos?!? Is it possible that we overuse the "L" word so much that it has lost its real meaning? A very popular song said: "What's love got to do with it? What's love... but a second-hand emotion?"

What is the true meaning of love? How can I know if I really am a loving person?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) In your opinion: Is LOVE an emotion... an attitude... or behavior... or some combination of these?
- 2) Read John 13:34-35. The phrase: "By this shall all men know..." means that something must be VISIBLE. How do I make my love visible to all men?
- 3) Read John 14:21. How can I know for sure that I truly love Jesus?
- 4) The LOVE test: Do ANY of my actions and behavior reveal the OPPOSITE of any of the things on this list from 1 Corinthians 13?  
(Note: List from English Standard Version - ESV)

LOVE...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is patient</li> <li>- is kind</li> <li>- does not envy</li> <li>- does not boast</li> <li>- is not arrogant</li> <li>- is not rude</li> <li>- does not insist on its own way</li> <li>- is not irritable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is not resentful</li> <li>- does not rejoice at wrongdoing</li> <li>- rejoices with the truth</li> <li>- bears all things</li> <li>- believes all things</li> <li>- hopes all things</li> <li>- endures all things</li> </ul>
---------	--	--

SO WHAT?:

The scriptures plainly define the real meaning of love. If we are willing to look into the "mirror" of scripture, then we can easily test ourselves to see if we measure up to the bible's definition of love. Ask God to show you if there are areas of your life that is contrary to 1 Corinthians 13. Read the epistle 1 John multiple times. Ask God to help you love others with Christ's love that dwells in YOU! Can others see that you are a disciple of Christ?

THINK ABOUT IT:

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (1 John 4:20 King James Version - KJV)