

## LOVE

Faith, Hope, and Love – but the greatest of these is love.  
- 1 Corinthians 13:13

Among all the letters that have been or will be written, this is one of the most important. Love is the greatest gift that we receive

and that we give. To coin the song by its title, “Love makes the world go round...”

As a gift, love is not earned or rewarded on merit; rather it is given and received with a deep realization and appreciation for God’s mercy to us – who are undeserving of salvation, reconciliation, and redemption in Christ. *For there is none righteous, no not even one...*



In his book, Living the 7 Habits, Stephen Covey comments on the story of the love expressed by a father to his 13 year old son. He describes 5 ways to express love:

- ♥ Simply to understand; particularly feelings and deeper meanings
- ♥ Seek to be understood; also, particularly feelings and deeper meanings
- ♥ Explicitly affirm the worth of another in words – to say what you feel about them, and to affirm their potential, that they can “do it”
- ♥ Pray for and with them; for safety, protection, development, salvation, and guidance, peace, security, etc. on general and specific matters
- ♥ Sacrifice for them, to do something for them that would be outside what they normally think or expect you to do

The power of love, to mean much more than romance, goes far beyond our human nature by enabling us to sincerely extend and receive without conditions or expectations – unconditional love remains a mystery although an unparalleled indication of God’s desire and plan for man.

Why is love so important?

A writer by the name of Tom Walker, in commenting on 1 Corinthians 13, writes:

Where one finds love, he finds a breeding ground of hope, and where there is hope one again has faith. Life again is rich and beautiful, not in the material but in the spiritual. So without love there is no hope. Without hope, faith is not worthwhile, and living becomes hell. But love supplies the hope which in turn enables faith. Faith, hope, and love - The greatest of these is love.

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