

Growing True Family Love | Family Love, Part 6

I. The Most Significant Reality of True Love

- True Love makes life work.
- Verse one tells us, *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."*
 - This verse teaches that communication doesn't work without True Love.
 - You and your family really need to listen to episode 38. It's called The Communication House, and it outlines God's plan for all family talk.
 - Love is an integral part of The Communication House. In fact, it's so important that pleasing God with our communication is impossible without True Love.
- Now verse two says, *"And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."*
 - Here we learn that even religion doesn't work without True Love.
- And verse three tells us, *"If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."*
 - This is interesting because it actually tells us actions that appear to be the most loving things a person could do don't work without True Love.
- So, the big three — my communication, my faith, and my relationships — will all fail if I do not have True Love.
- If you don't learn anything else today, learn this: **Life doesn't work without True Love.**

II. The Way True Love Lives

- **Love is patient.** Verse two tells us that, *"Love is patient,"* and verse seven tells us that True Love *"endures all things."* Life doesn't work if you're impatient.
 - Do you want have real Love in your home? Do you desire to show God's love to your family members? Be patient. There will never be a time when biblical patience will be unloving.
 - I Thessalonians 5:14 says, *"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."*
- **Love is kind.** We learn this from verse two. *"Love is . . . kind;"*
 - This is the only time this word is used in the New Testament, but the original word has the idea of "showing oneself useful." But the adjectival form of this word means serviceable, good, or gracious.
 - Kindness can basically be reduced to being useful. Ephesians 4:29 perfectly illustrates this when it says, *"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."*
- **Love is humble.** Verse four teaches that *"love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude."*
 - Envy describes a zealous desire for something.
 - The word translated "boast" is only used here, but it communicates self-display.
 - Proverbs 27:2 says, *"Let another praise you, and not your own mouth."*
 - The word for "arrogance" literally means to inflate. Arrogance makes us proud.
 - Psalm 31:23 sums it up well when it says, *"Love the Lord, all you his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride."*
 - And "rude" communicates acting in an inappropriate way. This word is also used only once on Scripture. If it's inappropriate, it's not in God's best interest for anyone!

- **Love is selfless.** Verse five of I Corinthians 13 tells us, “[Love] *does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;*”
 - This one is pretty clear. Selfishness cannot be found within a hundred miles of True Love.
 - It’s not about my way, it’s about God’s way for you.
- **Love is holy.** Verse five tells us, “[Love] *does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*”
 - If True Love wants God’s best for everyone, then there’s no way it could ever rejoice in wickedness and sin. The only thing that brings True Love pleasure is God’s absolute Truth.
- **Love is strong.** Verse seven teaches us that, “*Love bears all things, [and] endures all things.*”
 - It’s weighty to love. The people you love will have burdens and distresses. They’ll fail and need admonishment and care. They’ll trip and need to be lifted up. They’ll sin and need forgiveness.
 - The more you love, the more intimate your relationship. And — if we’re honest — the real us is a mess.
 - But God is all-powerful, and as He gives us the strength, we can bear up under the strain of loving people in a fallen creation.
- **Love is optimistic.** Verse seven also teaches us that, “*Love . . . believes all things, [and] hopes all things.*”
 - We should all be sanctified optimists.
 - Mankind has nothing to celebrate, yet God loves us. He knows that through Him we can have life and godliness in abundance.
- **Love is eternal.** Verse seven also tells us, “*Love . . . endures all things.*” And verse eight reveals that, “*Love never ends.*”
 - And much the same way as the passage was started, Paul ends this description of love with an extended description.
 - Verses 8-13 read, “*As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*”
 - The nature of True Love is that it’s built to last. God is love. He’s eternal. Love is eternal. And when we exercise the love of God, there will never come a time that requires our love to die.

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