

Love Is...

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – May 12, 2013

1 Cor 13:1-8, 13

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails... 9-12 ... 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Love is...

1. A VERB

Our society teaches love is a feeling.

Feelings go up and down with our mood, our health, our bank balance, etc.

LOVE REQUIRES SOMETHING FROM US.

Love must include action, or it's not love.

Love is...

2. SOMETIMES INCONVENIENT

We are called to love the unlovable.

Luke 6:32

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?
Even 'sinners' love those who love them.

Love is...

3. RISKY

We spend most of our time worrying about if we are being loved, rather than focusing on loving.

C. S. Lewis said,

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements... It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable ... The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers of love ... is Hell."

Love is...

4. SACRIFICIAL

Christ perfected sacrificial love.

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Eph 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.