

November 15, 2020

Love Is...
By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall
Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff, Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome
We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7: *Love is patient and is kind. Love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.*

The Bible has a lot to say about love. Love can be *sinful* if it is directed toward money (**1 Tim. 6:10**), things of the world (**1 Jn. 2:15**), evil, or anything that comes between self and God (cf. **2 Tim. 3:4**).

Yet, when love is directed toward God and others (**Mark 12:29-31**), truth (cf. **2 Thes. 2:10**), or other righteous things, love is a wonderful attribute.

In **1 Corinthians 13**, the Holy Spirit through Paul speaks to the church at Corinth about the love they should have for one another. The word used for love is *agape*, which involves selflessness and sacrifice. It is a deliberate choice to seek others' highest good, rather than only thinking about oneself.

When we direct such love toward others, the fruits listed in **verses 4-7** will result. For instance...

Love is patient. The ASV says "**love suffereth long.**" If we love others as we

Love Is...

(Continued)

should, we will not be short-tempered with them, or retaliate when treated poorly. Instead, we will be longsuffering toward others, as God has been to us (**2 Pet. 3:9**).

[Love] is kind: If we love others as we should, we will not be bitter or harsh toward them. Instead, we will treat others gently and act benevolently.

Love doesn't envy: Envy involves being discontented when good comes to others. Such is the opposite of love's attitude. If we love others as we should, we will be happy for blessings that come their way.

Love doesn't brag: Boasting seeks to exalt self *above* others. Love opposes such aims, wanting instead to *help* others.

[Love] is not proud: Boasting is in many ways rooted in pride. While worldly wisdom may promote esteeming and exalting self above others, the wisdom from above does not (cf. **Phil. 2:3-8**).

[Love] doesn't behave itself inappropriately: The *NKJV* says that love "**does not behave rudely**" (**1 Cor. 13:5**). Love leads to treating others with respect and politeness, rather than crudeness.

[Love] doesn't seek its own way: Love is about selflessness. **Philippians 2:4** perhaps gets at the heart of *agape* love. The verse commands, "**each of you not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.**"

[Love] is not provoked: Love does not lash out in hasty anger at others. It has too great a concern for the well-being of others to be irritable with them.

[Love] takes no account of evil: If we love others as we should, we will not keep a mental list of their wrongs. We will not be bitter or resentful toward others, but *forgiving*.

[Love] doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth: Love leads one to encourage righteous behavior. Love never delights in the faults of others.

[Love] bears all things: This might allude to the fact that if we truly love others, we will not *gossip* about them.

[Love] believes all things: Love is not gullible, but it gives the benefit of the doubt instead of jumping to conclusions that assume the worst in others.

[Love] hopes all things: Love also *desires* what is best for others.

[Love] endures all things: Even when faced with hardships, including mistreatment from others, love *endures*.

These fruits of love serve as a "measuring stick" for self-examination. They also demonstrate that at the root of right treatment of others is the simple but weighty command, "**love thy neighbor as thyself**" (**Rom. 13:9**).

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

“Don't let kindness and truth forsake you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart.”

– Proverbs 3:3

“Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” – 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)
Carlyle (Hip)
Heather's Friend, Courtney
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Mike D (COVID recovery)
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
Roger & Parents
Mary S (Pancreatic Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

November 15 – Proverbs 8-9; 2 Cor. 3
November 16 – Proverbs 10-12; 2 Cor. 4
November 17 – Proverbs 13-15; 2 Cor. 5
November 18 – Proverbs 16-18; 2 Cor. 6
November 19 – Proverbs 19-21; 2 Cor. 7
November 20 – Proverbs 22-24; 2 Cor. 8
November 21 – Proverbs 25-26; 2 Cor. 9

“For the LORD gives wisdom. Out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.” – Proverbs 2:6

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Bible Study: Mike

Worship: Jeff

Evening: Mark

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Roger

Assignments

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Reading: Harold

Announcements: Dave

Table: Mark

Serve: Mason

Roger

Clean Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Donna

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Invitation: Larry

Upcoming Reminders

Anniversaries

November 20 – Mike & Rowena

Birthdays

November 20 – Patsy

November 21 – Tretyn

November 25 – Mason

November 27 – Roger