

A CALL TO LOVE

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A CALL TO **LOVE** – The Foundations of True **Love**

- **Love is the universal language of human experience**
- **Love goes way beyond romance, dating or marriage**
- **We are all touched by love in several ways**

Mediums Used To Talk About **Love**

- **Poetry & Literature**
- **Social Media & Influencers**
- **Podcasts & Audio Shows**
- **Online Forums & Communities**
- **Weddings & Proposal Videos**
- **Advertising & Marketing**
- **Art & Photography**
- **Spoken Word & Slam Poetry**
- **Stand-Up Comedy**
- **Self-Help & Relationship Coaching**
- **Psychological Scientific Studies**
- **Fashion & Jewellery**
- **Religious & Spiritual Teachings**

Love Permeates Every Corner Of Our Culture

The Greeks had several words to describe Love

- 1. Eros - Romantic Love**
- 2. Philia - Deep Friendship**
- 3. Storge - Family Bonds**
- 4. Agape – Unconditional Love**
- 5. Ludus - Playful Affection**
- 6. Pragma - Enduring Commitment**
- 7. Philautia - Self-Love**

Thought-Provoking Quotes About **Love**

- **“Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.” – William Shakespeare**
- **“The only thing we never get enough of is love; and the only thing we never give enough of is love.” – Henry Miller**
- **“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.” – Dalai Lama**
- **“Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do.” – David Wilkerson**

Biblical & Spiritual Truths Above **Love**

- **“God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” – 1 John 4:16 (NKJV)**
- **“Faith, hope, love, these three remain; but the greatest of these is love.” – 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)**
- **“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.” – C.S. Lewis**

1. The Priority of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body ^[a]to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

1. The Priority of **Love**

(a) Love is greater than eloquence

- **Even angelic speech is meaningless without love**
- **Our words must be motivated by love**
- **Don't be fooled by mere words!**

1. The Priority of **Love**

(b) Love is greater than knowledge and faith

- **Understanding mysteries means nothing without love**
- **Even mountain-moving faith is empty without love**
- **Don't be fooled by intellect and professions of faith!**

1. The Priority of **Love**

(c) Love is greater than sacrifice

- **Giving everything to the poor**
- **Even martyrdom is worthless without love**
- **Key Point: Love must be our motivation for everything**
- **Don't be fooled by gifts and gestures!**

2. The Portrait of **Love** - What love looks like!

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not [b]puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, [c]thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

3. The Practise of **Love** - How love behaves!

- **Jesus said - “By their fruit you shall know them” (Matt 7:15)**
- **Gal 5:19-21 (the works of the flesh)**
- **Gal 5:22-24 (the fruit of the Spirit)**

3. The Practise of **Love** - How love behaves!

(a) Love's Positive Actions

- **Patient: Endures with grace**
- **Kind: Actively seeks others' good**
- **Rejoices with truth: Celebrates what's right**

3. The Practise of **Love** - How love behaves!

(b) Love's Self-Control

- **Not envious: Content with what it has**
- **Not boastful: Humble in pursuit of life**
- **Not proud: Others-focused, happy for others to get ahead**
- **Not rude: Considerate, polite and respectful**
- **Not self-seeking: Selfless, always thinking of others**
- **Not easily angered: Controlled, self-controlled and**
- **Keeps no record of wrongs**

4. The Permanence of **Love** (verses 8-13)

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

⁸Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. ¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

4. The Permanence of **Love** (verses 8-13)

(a) Love Never Fails

- **Contrast with temporary gifts**
- **Prophecies, tongues, knowledge will cease**

4. The Permanence of **Love** (verses 8-13)

(b) Love's complete nature

- **Moving from partial to complete understanding**
- **Childhood to maturity analogy**

4. The Permanence of **Love** (verses 8-13)

(c) Love's Supreme Position

- **Faith, hope, and love remain**
- **Love is the greatest**

Conclusion

1. The Priority of **Love**
2. The Portrait of **Love**
3. The Practice of **Love**
4. The Permanence of **Love**

Application Points

- **Examine our motivations**
- **Practice specific aspects of love**
- **Ask God for help to love better**
- **Focus on the eternal not the temporal perspective**