

Priorities for Prosperity in the Pandemic and Beyond

Real Love

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Ray of Hope Christian Church
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Matthew 22:36-40

**‘Love your neighbor
as you love yourself’**



Love is patient and kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

I Corinthians 13:4-8a

If we had more love...



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**Wearing masks and
social distancing is
an act of loving
our neighbors as
we love ourselves.**



**This love can only
be understood by going
to it's source –
God!**



**The Hebrew and Greek words
in scripture that perfectly
describe the love of God are
Ahaba and Agape.**



**Love is chiefly
represented in scriptures
as an attribute of God as
well as a Christian virtue.**



God is love!

I John 4:8



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**The love of God is more than
kindness or benevolence.**



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**Taste and see that the
Lord is good.**

Psalm 34:8



**His love is directed towards
rational personal beings, those
whom he has created in his image
and likeness for relationship.**



**God's love, real love is
eternal. It has never been
without an object.**



**This is my Son whom I love;
with him I am well pleased.**

Matthew 3:17



**As the Father has loved me
so I have loved you.**

John 15:9



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The Lord appeared to us in the past saying, I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Jeremiah 31:3



Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:35-37



**God's love,
real love is gracious.**



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Exodus 34:6



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Exodus 20:1-5



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**You shall not bow down and
worship them for I the Lord
your God am a jealous God.**



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Discussion:

**What does it look like for you
to be gracious to someone
who has wronged you?**



Isaiah 63:7-9



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**God's love,
real love is universal.**

John 3:16



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**God's love,
real love is sacrificial.**

I John 3:9-12



**The greatest proof of his love
is his redemption of us.**



**But God demonstrates his own
love for us in this: while
we were yet sinners
Christ died for us.**

Romans 5:8



**The love of God,
real love is
incomprehensible.**



Romans 5:5



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This love not only seems too good to be true, but it also seems too much for us give and yet that is exactly what God expects of us.



We are to love God with all our heart, all our soul and with all our mind and we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Matthew 22:37-40



**If you love me,
keep my commands.**

John 14:15



**My command is this:
Love one another as
I have loved you.**

John 15:12



**What Jesus is telling us is that
he expects us to love one
another with a real love,
the love of God.**



I Corinthians 13

- the love chapter.



Eros



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Philia



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Eros and Philia

Love



Agape is, "unconquerable benevolence, invincible good will." It is seeking another's highest good above one's own.



**Agape is the Greek counterpart
to the Hebrew word for love –
Ahaba.**



- **A family into an intimate connection,**
- **A house into a home,**
- **An ordinary relationship into an extraordinary one.**



**Real love
not only enriches; it edifies.**



Real love is powerful.



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**Real love is
patient and kind.**



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**Patience requires
a gentle strength.**



Real love is patient and kind.



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**Real love is patient and kind,
it is not jealous or boastful.**



Discussion/Reflection:

How many times do you use I, me or mine in a conversation with others? Do you ask others how they are doing and then take the time to listen, giving them your undivided attention? Is the conversation always about you and what is going on in your life?



**Boastfulness is usually
a sign of insecurity, fear
and inferiority.**



Real love is humble.



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**Real love is gracious.
Love is not conceited,
it is conceding.**



**Love is not rude;
it is polite and courteous.**



Real love has good manners.



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Real love is not self-seeking.



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Real love is not easily angered.



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**Real love keeps no
record of wrongs.**



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We are careful to write down every wrong with the pencil of memory but never take off anything with the eraser of forgiveness.



Real love is forgiving.



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**Real love enhances, edifies,
builds us rather than tears folks
down. To love is not to rejoice in
evil but to rejoice in the truth.**



**By this everyone will know
that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.**

John 13:35



Discussion:

1. Name an example when real love has been most evident in your life or a relationship.
2. When has it been least evident?
3. What hinders you from loving like God loves?

