

What Love Does

“Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If we were to give all the wealth of our house for love, it would be utterly scorned” (Song of Songs 8:7).

I. Love is infectious. It tastes good and “gives light to everyone in the house” (Matthew 5:13-16). Everyone’s most important need is to give and receive love.

- A. Love surpasses every emotion and experience, because love is who God is, and love is why He sent Jesus (I John 4:7-12). You were made to be thirsty for Him.
- B. No matter how great our spiritual experience, nothing is gained without love. (I Corinthians 13:1-3).
- C. Love causes us to be relational instead of religious (Jeremiah 3:12-13, 19-20; I Corinthians 13:4-5). Love also rejoices in truth (I Cor. 13:6; I John 4:20, 21).
 - 1. Love protects—“to cover over with a roof” (I Corinthians 13:7; Psalm 68:5, 6).
 - 2. Love always trusts—believes in people (I Corinthians 13:7).
 - 3. Love always hopes—looks for the best (Romans 8:31, 32).
 - 4. Love always perseveres. (I Corinthians 13:7).

II. Love tenderizes our hearts by the work of the Spirit (Romans 8:15, 16).

- A. It takes God to love God, so one of our main jobs is to learn to be good receivers (I John 4:19).
- B. Love is both a choice and a feeling.
- C. The love of our Father causes us to sense what God is doing with the people around us (John 5:19, 20).

III. Love is the most powerful force in the universe (Song of Songs 8:6, 7).

- A. Love compels us to want God’s heart and to shun all other other imposters. God’s love burns like a fire, is stronger than death, and is jealous for us (Romans 8:31-38).
- B. Love loosens chains of injustice, sets the oppressed free, and breaks every yoke (Isaiah 58:6).
- C. Love is so strong it bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes, and raises up oaks of righteousness who in turn restore devastated and ruined places (Isaiah 61:1-4).

*Mike Hudgins
September 1 & 2, 2018*