

## **GOD'S LOVE – 1 CORINTHIANS 13 V 4 – 8**

### **THE GOD – KIND OF LOVE**

Today in the covenant Service we renewed our commitment to our relationship with God and others. Rev Julia's story this morning was a powerful example of love – love for football and love between a father and a daughter. The power of love governs our relationship with God and others.

I think love power is the greatest power in the world. We live in the presence of God's love, the more love we demonstrate to others, the more power of God's anointing is placed on our lives. So we must not allow hatred, bitterness, strife, malice and any such evil to stay in us.

The bible tells us to overcome evil with good therefore we should overcome every situation in our lives with love – the God kind of love which is the greatest power in the world! When we do this we will triumph because love triumphs!

The God kind of love isn't anything like a mother or father's love for their children. It's also different from the kind of love between spouses. The love you have for your child or spouse or family and friends, it is wonderful but it's nothing like agape – the God kind of love.

Human love is fickle. Sadly, there have been situations where parents stopped talking to their children because they were wronged. Loving couples have stopped talking to each other because one was hurt by the other. So you see, as wonderful as human love can be, it would not suffice when the going gets tough.

Sometimes we dwell on an offence for too long, then grow bitter and depressed which creates a heaviness of the heart. It's not God's will for us to be depressed and

bitter. God would rather we function in love. God's Word can build us so that our emotions always function in the direction of love where we submit all our being and emotions to be completely dominated by the love of God.

May we be challenged tonight to love people as Jesus loved, may we reach out to people in the true sense of God's love and care for them with a sincere heart. On this covenant Sunday, may we rebuild relationships with people in a way that communicates the love of God.

When we let go of such things like past hurts, pride, prejudice and let the love of God take their place and flow from our hearts to touch others then the Holy Spirit will work through us and affect the lives of other people.

God's love is true love, its boundless, it's always, it's the kind of love that gives even when it's not reciprocated. God's love is demonstrated in spite of the prevailing situation. The expression of the God kind of love is not based on our actions. God loves us more than we love ourselves, the bible tells us He loves us with an everlasting love, a love that endures forever.

Jesus loves us more than life itself, He proved this by dying on the cross for you and me! God's love, grace and desire is for us to live a happy, glorious and fulfilled life that is far beyond what we could ever imagine. God loves you and cares for you so be confident of God's love – because you are God's best.

There is no fear whatsoever in perfect love. One day I decided to leave work early to collect my son TK at playschool, when he saw me, he ran to me and jumped on me with his dirty hands and dirty apron and gave me a big chocolate hug! TK's actions were based on his love for me and the excitement to see me; he wasn't afraid of any

punishment for messing mummy's nice work clothes or rejection because he was dirty for he expected me to respond with the same love and affection. That's perfect love.

When you are confident of God's love you will never be afraid of anything. So likewise God our Father loves us and we should not be afraid to go to Him, God does not see us the way we think we are but He sees us according to His Word, He loves you the same way as He loves Jesus. So we should see people the way God sees them. When we learn to walk in love and fellowship by love then we easily recognise God in other people.

When we sin, we should not let it weigh us down. We should tell God about it and ask for forgiveness and He will forgive us and from then God no longer remembers it. This is the covenant relationship that we have with God through Jesus Christ. We should fellowship with God by love which means there is communication and intimacy in our relationship with Him. It means we are in fellowship with God because we love Him and nothing else. He is all that we seek! The reason we left our homes tonight. And so we dedicate our lives to God not because we want God to do something for us but because we love Him. This is what produces covenant friendship between us and the Lord.

1 Corinthians 13 ends by saying, 'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'. Faith activates a change in the present – faith is for NOW, hope is for the FUTURE - the positive expectation of a desired end result but the greatest of these is love which is ALWAYS, all the time. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, Love never fails – so Love always because God loves you.....

Let us pray

Gracious Lord, thank you for the great love with which you have loved us. We pledge our heart's commitment to continue in your love. Thank you for being so much committed to our needs than we could ever be. Lord we are grateful and appreciate your great love towards us. Thank you for valuing us so much that You did not spare your son Jesus, but delivered Him up to die for us and with Him you have freely given us all things to enjoy. And for this reason, Lord we declare that we will live our lives, loving you and serving you always in Jesus' name.

Amen