

FOLLOWING LOVE – 2
AUGUST 8, 2018

REVIEW:

- God desires to use us as vessels of His power.
- Compassion was the power that moved Jesus.
- We are to be rooted and grounded in love.
- God's love has been shed abroad in our hearts.

CONTINUE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13-14:1

1. Faith, hope and love are powerful forces in a believer's life.
 - A. Faith is a gift that enables us to access grace (**ROMANS 5:1-2**) and believe beyond our five senses (**HEBREWS 11:1-3**).
 - B. Hope is a motivational force that motivates us to live holy lives. **1 JOHN 3:3**
 - C. Love is God Himself living in us. **1 JOHN 4:15-16**

2. Love is the greatest because of:
 - A. **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3** – Nothing matters without it.
 - B. **ROMANS 13:10** – It fulfills the law.
 - C. **GALATIANS 5:6** – It energizes our faith.
 - D. **JOHN 13:34-35** – It's the new covenant law.
 - E. **1 JOHN 4:7-8** – It enables us to know God.
 - F. **COLOSSIANS 3:14** – It's the mark of spiritual maturity.
 - G. **1 CORINTHIANS 13:8** – It never fails or disappoints.

3. Greek words for love.
 - A. Eros – Physical, erotic love.
 - B. Storge – compatibility.
 - C. Phileo – Brotherly, based on feelings, emotions; responsive.
 - D. Agape – Divine, aggressive, unconditional, based on decision, and principle. It's the highest level of love there is.
 - **1 JOHN 3:16** – It's self-sacrificing love that moves us to action.

4. To follow love we must put on love. **COLOSSIANS 3:14**

- A. “Put on” denotes the act of putting on a garment or piece of clothing.
- B. Clothing styles may change but how we put clothes on never changes. It’s up to us to choose the proper clothing and physically put them on. They don’t jump out of the closet and onto our body without our help.
- C. It’s up to us to put on love instead of anger, malice, lying, deceit, frustration, revenge or any other cloak that wants to control our lives.

5. Agape explained. **1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8**

- A. Suffers long – Is patient and holds firm through difficulties.

JAMES 5:7-8

- B. Kind – To show oneself mild, considerate, courteous.
- C. Does not envy – Or zealous for what belongs to another.
- D. Does not parade itself, is not puffed up – to boast or brag.

JEREMIAH 9:24 (GW)

- E. Does not behave unseemly – Behavior that does not maintain a good appearance. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:22**

- F. Does not seek its own – It would rather give than receive.

LUKE 6:38

- G. Is not easily provoked – It takes a lot to anger it.
- H. Thinks no evil – Keeps no record of wrong doing.
- I. Doesn’t rejoice in iniquity – Wrong doing, unrighteousness, wickedness, injustice.

- J. Bears all things – To cover or protect by covering with silence. To hide, conceal or forbear.

1 PETER 4:8

- K. Believes and hopes all things – About and for everyone.
- L. Endures all things – Patience in adversity.
- M. Never fails – Falls or disappoints