

# What is LOVE?

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

(This message is online at: [nwbcspringfield.com](http://nwbcspringfield.com)) - Use this listening guide as you watch the video worship services online. This will also have questions you can use with your connect group.

4 Essential truths about LOVE:

## 1. Love is \_\_\_\_\_

- Love is more important than my \_\_\_\_\_

*"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal."* 1 Corinthians 13:1

- Love is more important than my \_\_\_\_\_

*"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge... but have not love I am nothing."*

1 Corinthians 13:2a

- Love is more important than my \_\_\_\_\_

*"...and if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love I am nothing."* 1 Corinthians 13:2b

- Love is more important than my \_\_\_\_\_

*"If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, but didn't love others, I would be of no value whatsoever."* 1 Corinthians 13:3a (NLT)

- Love is more important than my \_\_\_\_\_

*“So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.” 1 Corinthians 13:3b (Message)*

## **2. Love is \_\_\_\_\_**

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

## **3. Love is \_\_\_\_\_**

*“So go after a life of love as if your life depended on it...” 1 Corinthians 14:1a (Message) “Jesus said, ‘A new commandment I give you: Love one another.’” John 13:34*

## **4. Love is \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Make love your greatest aim...” 1 Corinthians 14:1 (LB) “Keep company with God and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn’t love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.” Ephesians 5:2 (Message)*

# **CONNECT GROUP**

1. Look back over the notes. What points seemed particularly relevant to you? Why?

Read 1 Cor. 13:1-3. Paul lists the things (good things!) that can replace love as our primary focus. Why is it so easy for achievements or activity to replace love?

Read 1 Cor. 13:4-7. Who is the most loving person you know, and why do you think so? Which of the aspects of love listed here is toughest for you? Why? How does this list demonstrate that love is more than an emotion?

2. Read 1 Cor. 13:8-13. Why will all the dramatic gifts Paul lists here one day pass away? In context with the Corinthian church’s problem – glorifying showy gifts and talents like speaking in tongues or miracles – what is Paul’s point here? How does the fact that one day you shall see God fully even as you are fully known by God motivate you to remember to live a life of love?

3. Read John 13:34-35. What did Jesus command here? How do we sometimes finish this sentence incorrectly: “They will know we are

Christians by our...”? Who is someone you need to love as Christ loved you? How will you love them this way this week?

4. Read 1 John 3:11-18. Who is someone (alive or in history) whose life is an example of Christlike love? According to these verses, how do we know what love is? How can you show love this weekend to someone in the way verse 18 defines it?

Ask God to help you make love for Him and others your priority. Ask Him to bless this “LOVE” spiritual growth campaign. Ask God to work on the particular area of love that’s most difficult for you. Ask Him to help you see how you can demonstrate this even today . Ask God to help you remember that only love will one day remain. Please pray for the coming series on love — that it will transform and grow our church in many deep ways! Ask God to help you remember to show love to neighbors, friends, family — in actions, not just words . Please pray that God will use the LOVE series to really deeply grow our church’s love factor! Please pray for the weekend services. Pray that many would join small groups and commit to growing in love!

*“Make love your greatest aim...”* 1 Corinthians 14:1a

*Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”* Mark 12:30,31

*“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love.”* Galatians 5:6b

*“...love is the fulfillment of the law.”* Romans 13:10

*“The entire law is summed up in a single command:  
‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Galatians 5:14*

*“Above all, love each other deeply...” 1 Peter 4:8*

*“...the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13b*