

In Step

A New Standard for Love

April 30, 2023

When it comes to love, it's easy to talk the talk. But what does real, Spirit-led, Christ-like love look like?

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- We often only consider what we think is possible. What's better is to ask, "What does God think is possible?"
- Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. | 2 Corinthians 13, v.5
- "We're not saved by fruit. We're saved by faith. But not fruitless faith." | Tim Keller
- "But the fruit of the Spirit is love..." | Galatians 5, v.22
- "A new command I give you—Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. | John 13, v.34
- The kind of love God has shown us is the kind of love God wants to flow through us.
- This love looks like loving those who are different from us.
- This love doesn't ignore the needs of a brother or sister.
- This love forgives with or without an apology.
- This love isn't just a feeling; it's a choice.
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. | 1 Corinthians 13, vv.4-8
- We can't love like this on our own. We need the Holy Spirit to help us where we struggle.
- The question to ask in all areas of our lives—What does love require of me?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We all learn mixed messages over the years about what love is or what it looks like. What's an inaccurate idea or "myth" you've had to unlearn about love?
2. Read the description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Who is someone in your life who has demonstrated a specific aspect of love that you see in that passage—and in what way?
3. Look at that same passage. What aspect of love do you struggle with the most?
4. Have you noticed an aspect of love in which you have grown and developed over the years? What do you think helped you to do that?