

***Let Love Reign In Your Relationships!***

***#RelationshipGoals God's Way! Pt.1***

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

September 18, 2016

**John 15:13**, *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

**Romans 5:8**, *But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Love Reigns In Our Relationships When We Understand:**

**1. Love's PREEMINENCE**

**1 Corinthians 13:1**, *If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

• **Love's Preeminence In SPEECH**

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

• **Love's Preeminence In ATTITUDE**

**1 Corinthians 13:2**, *If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*

• **Love's Preeminence In ACTION**

**1 Corinthians 13:3**, *If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

**2. Love's PROPERTIES**

**1 Corinthians 13:4**, *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

• **Love's Properties Concerning OTHERS**

**1 Corinthians 13:4**, *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy...*

• **Love's Properties Concerning ITSELF**

**1 Corinthians 13:4**, *...it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking...*

• **Love's Properties Concerning CIRCUMSTANCES**

**1 Corinthians 13:5**, *it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

**2 Corinthians 5:19**, *that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

**Proverbs 17:9**, *Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*

- **Summary of Love's PROPERTIES**  
**1 Corinthians 13:7**, *It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

**Ephesians 4:29**, *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen ... <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

### 3. Love's PERMANENCE

**1 Corinthians 13:8**, *Love never fails... <sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

**John 13:34**, *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”*

### **Cottonwood Challenge - Learning To Love:**

Study: Isaiah 5:20; Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 5:33; Colossians 3:19; John 3:30

1. Reflection: Spend some time this week reflecting on how much Christ has loved you. How many times have you offended Him? How great have your offenses been?
2. Expression: Think about how you can show that same kind of unconditional love to those around you; your spouse, parents, children, friends, etc.
3. Find a LifeGroup@Home or @Church to grow your relationships God's way!