

Love Is

1 Cor. 13

Introduction: As our society drifts farther away from God, it is not surprising the many Americans have become skeptical of the possibility of having a truly loving relationship with others...

• **Marriage** – Many surveys indicate that perhaps a majority of married couples remain married for convenience.

• **Family** – Some are skeptical of family love, and suggest...real love and support is not available so much in the family, but in a village or community.

III – The young groom's uncle said, "Congratulations! One day you'll look back and remember today as the happiest day of your life." The groom responded, "But I'm not getting married until tomorrow." The Uncle said, "I know!"

Note – Perhaps the reason we are so unsure about love in these days is because we do not know God...You see, one of the first characteristics we must understand about God is that He is love!

1-Love is Indispensable -

Without it I say nothing. even with the gift of tongues

Without it I am nothing, even with knowledge and faith

Without it I gain nothing, even though I make the utmost sacrifice

vs. 1-3

A Brilliant Life- But Love Absent

2-Love is Invaluable

Has 2 **Positive** qualities, patience and kindness

Has 7 **Negative** qualities 'not'

Has 2 **Relative** qualities, 'rejoices not in-but in'

Has 4 **Superlative** qualities, 'all things'

vs. 4-7

A Beautiful Life- With Love Evident

3-Love is Infallible--

Gifts of prophecy, tongues and knowledge are not permanent

vs. 8-10

A Blessed Life- And Love Permanent

I read a great quote about love a few months ago in a book written by a friend. The quote came from a sermon preached by Dr. Haddon Robinson at a pastors' conference, and the text was our epistle for today, 1 Corinthians 13.1-13. Toward the end of his sermon, Dr. Robinson said this: "**Love is that thing which, if a church has it, it doesn't really need much else, and if it doesn't have it, whatever else it has doesn't really matter very much**".

- Children from age four to eight, "What does love mean?"

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." -Kari, age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." -Chrissy, age 6

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day." -Noelle, age 7

"Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken." -Elaine, age 5

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." -Mary Ann, age 4

First year of marriage: "Sugar dumpling, I'm really worried about my baby girl. You've got a bad snuffle and there's no telling about these things with all the strep going around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general checkup and a good rest. I know the food's lousy but I'll be bringing your meals in from Rozzini's. I already have it all arranged with the floor superintendent."

Second year: "Listen darling, I don't like the sound of that cough. I've called Doc Miller to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good girl, for Poppa."

Third year: "Maybe you had better lie down, honey. Nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you some soup."

Fourth year: "Now look, dear, be sensible. After you've fed the kids, and done the dishes, and washed the floor, you better lie down."

Fifth year: "Why don't you take a couple aspirin?"

Sixth year: "I wish you'd just gargle or something instead of sitting around barking like a seal all evening."

Seventh year: "For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! Are you trying to give me pneumonia?"