

The Christian Arsenal

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WHAT MATTERS MOST 50 Days of Love

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Part 1 of 8

“There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for I don’t have space to store my goods?’ Then he said, ‘Here’s what I’ll do: I’ll tear down my barns and build me larger ones! Then I’ll say to myself, I have so many good things stored up for me – now rest, eat, drink, and be merry!’ But God said to him, ‘– now rest, eat, drink, and be merry!’ But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and then to whom will all your things belong?’ Thus will it be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God.” Luke 12:16-21 (NASB)

“If you are a follower of Christ Jesus ... All that matters is your faith that makes you love others.” Gal. 5:6 (CEV)

Prosperity is always more dangerous than adversity for your soul.

IF I DON'T LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE ...

1. ... NOTHING I SAY WILL MATTER.

“If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn’t love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal.” I Cor. 13:1 (NLT)

2. ...NOTHING I KNOW WILL MATTER.

“I may have the gift of prophecy. I may understand all the secrets of God. I may have all knowledge. But if I do not have love, then I am nothing.” I Cor. 13:2 (NCV)

3. ...NOTHING I BELIEVE WILL MATTER.

“Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love.” I Cor. 13:2b (LB)

4. ...NOTHING I GIVE WILL MATTER.

“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.” I Cor. 13:3a (NLT)

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WHY SOME PEOPLE GIVE:

- Some people give just in order to get back.
- Some people give out of guilt.
- Some people give to control other people.
- Some people give for prestige.

5. ...NOTHING I ACCOMPLISH WILL MATTER.

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

SUMMARY: God says I can have the eloquence of an orator, the knowledge of a genius, the faith of a miracle worker, the generosity of a philanthropist, the achievements of a superstar, but if I don’t have love in my heart, it is worth zero.

The Bible says that love is:

- The primary objective of life.
- The supreme value of life.

WHAT IS LOVE?

1. LOVE IS A COMMAND.

“Love means doing what God has commanded us, and He has commanded us to love one another.” 2 John 1:6 (NLT)

Love is not a feeling. It creates feelings. It produces feelings. It causes feelings, but love is not an emotion.

2. LOVE IS A CHOICE.

“Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it – because it does!” 1 Cor. 14:1a (Mes)

Love is a volitional act of the will. Love is a choice. We choose to love or not to love.

Love is giving a person what they need, not what they deserve.

3. LOVE IS A CONDUCT.

“Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions.” 1 John 3:18 (LB)

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Love is not something you feel or say, it is something you do.

4. **LOVE IS A COMMITMENT.**

“God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and He will stay one with us.” I John 4:16 (CEV)

HOW TO BUILD A LIFE OF LOVE

1. **LEARN HOW MATURE LOVE ACTS AND RESPONDS.**
2. **START YOUR DAY WITH A DAILY REMINDER TO LOVE**
3. **MEMORIZE WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT LOVE.**
4. **PRACTICE ACTING IN UNSELFISH, LOVING WAYS.**
5. **GET SUPPORT FROM OTHER LOVING PEOPLE.**

“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.” Eph. 5:2 (Mes)

“In this life we have three lasting qualities: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” I Cor. 13:13 (Ph)

COMMITMENT

- ❖ I will attend the 50 Days of Love Bible study group to get connected to others.
- ❖ I will read the 50 Days of Love devotional to get connected to God.
- ❖ I will memorize a short Bible verse each week to put God's Word in my heart.
- ❖ I will attend every Sunday morning services for the next eight weeks to hear the messages on biblical love.
- ❖ I will commit to practice the characteristics of love that I learn each week in some practical way.

**Would you make a commitment to these challenges?
If you sit on the sidelines, you're going to miss a life-changing opportunity.**

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