

1 Corinthians 13 (NIV)

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If 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 have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Happy Valentine's Day!

This passage is often read at weddings, but since it is February, I thought it would be okay to talk about love. Apparently Paul thought love was something we not only needed to talk about, but we needed to redefine. Love in this passage has its beginning in God's love, a love that never fails.

Love is patient and kind, not envious or rude. I don't know about you, but I get irritated and sometimes I'm rude (just ask my husband). When I read these words about God's love, I am reminded of what true love is. It is not sentimental or temporary; it is the kind of love that is still there after the arguments.

Love is patient and kind (because we are not), love is not envious or boastful, arrogant or rude (but we are). Love does not insist on its own way (but we do). It is God's love that surrounds us at marriages and baptisms and hospital beds and funerals. It is a love that never ends.

God's love is present in our lives, it bears all things, believes all things endures all things, not because God expects us to put up with a bad situation, but because God's love holds us together when everything around us is falling apart. So when you forget (as I do), remember the source of love - it is a love that never ends.

So Happy Valentine's Day!

