



The Love Challenge

By Derek Kiser on April 16, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 13

This is the love chapter as some call it. Some of you may have had this passage read at your wedding. That is easy to follow on your honeymoon, but what happens when you get back from your honeymoon and life and reality return? This chapter is super hard to live out. The standard is high. The standard of love is being patient, kind, rejoicing in truth, keeping every confidence, believing all things, hoping all things, and enduring all things. That all sounds great, but how do I as a sinful person do that? Maybe I am the only one who struggles to love perfectly one hundred percent of the time, but for the sake of argument follow me in this.

Sometimes we are tired, sometimes we are stressed, sometimes people around us are tired or stressed and they are difficult to love. Do we get a pass then? Surely it says somewhere in this passage as long as the other person is perfect. I have tried to find this disclaimer but no luck, it is not there. I am a sinful human being surrounded by sinners and that is just a difficult place to start this conversation. So how do we do this? 1 John 4:19 helps here, "We love because he first loved us." The only way I know how to even attempt to live this passage out is to dig deep and think how much Christ loved me when I was unlovable. I think about the saved version of me and know I am nowhere close to a perfect person. I really need to look to the One who loved perfectly as an example, but also as the One who gives me the ability through the Holy Spirit to love others. Circumstances make loving others perfectly difficult. There are no perfect husbands, or wives or children or parents or friends or coworkers or siblings. They simply do not exist, but the requirements to love are independent of the circumstances we face and the struggles we have. When I think about the cross, I can love others because Christ was patient with me and kind to me. He fulfills all of these things because that is who He is. He has given us the Holy Spirit and the ability to love others. Who do you need to show this kind of selfless love to today?

PRAYER: God, thank you for all you do for me. Thank you for the cross and thank you for the love of others. God, help me to love unconditionally and be the example of love to others.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 14

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First Baptist Church Fort Mill, 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715

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