

# LOVE MATTERS MOST

(GENUINE LOVE)

## KEY VERSE

*1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)* <sup>1</sup> Let love be your highest goal...

## DEFINITION – GOAL:

*“The object of a person’s ambition or effort; an aim or desired result.”*

*Love should be central, not peripheral.*

## WHY DO WE NEED TO LOVE?

*We are made in the image of, and fashioned after love itself.*

**Agape** - Unconditional love, God’s love

**Phileo** - Brotherly love, friendship love

**Eros** - Romantic love, Passionate love

**Storge** - Parental love

***1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT)*** <sup>13</sup> Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

***1 John 4:7-8 (NLT)*** <sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

*Why do we need to love?*

- **God is the reference point for all love**
- **We are made in the image of God**
- **We find our fullest expression in love**

## **WHO DO WE NEED TO LOVE?**

***John 21:15-17 (NLT)*** <sup>15</sup> After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him. <sup>16</sup> Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my

sheep,” Jesus said. <sup>17</sup> A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.

*Jesus didn't impart vision, mission or strategy to Peter. He taught Peter that love was at the core of what the church is meant to be.*

**Mark 12:28-31 (NLT)** <sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. <sup>30</sup> And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

*We can't truly say we love God if we do not also love others.*

*Who do we need to love?*

- **We love God**
- **We love our neighbour**

## **HOW DO WE LOVE?**

*Marriage:*

**Agape:** *A commitment under God*

**Eros:** *Consummate relationship*

**Phileo:** *Friends and family witnessing and supporting*

**Storge:** *Creating a secure place for the raising of children*

## **Commitment**

*“He who has loved many women has loved none. He who has loved one has loved them all.”*

***Spanish Proverb***

*Committing to each other in love is the kind of love that God desires for us to have.*

## **Action**

***1 John 3:18 (NLT)*** <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

- **We have to move from feelings to action**
- **We have to move from 'I will' to 'I do'**

**Genuine love is something that is tangible for someone else.**

## **Sacrifice**

*Sacrifice is the greatest evidence of true and genuine love.*

***John 15:13 (NLT)*** <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

- **Jesus was committed to seeing us reconciled to God**
- **His love moved him to take action on our behalf**
- **His love was fully expressed by His sacrifice on the cross for our sake.**

***John 3:16 (NLT)*** <sup>16</sup>“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

## **CONCLUSION**

- *When God is our reference point for love, we find that we are designed to love.*
- *When we love God, God directs us to love others.*
- *When we love with commitment, action and sacrifice, we let love be our highest goal.*