

COMMUNICATING OUR LOVE

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[scripture 1 Corinthians 13:1-8]

Love is important, the Lord says so.

How do we tell GOD we understand? That we have LOVE as HE understands it?

More than just lip service, like: "I love you too" or "I Love you man!"

In other words how do we COMMUNICATE our love? You know "I'd rather see ...

Is that important? Yes, God said so:

1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity."

And, He gave us the commandment:

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Love then must be something that can be seen. As HE has loved us.

John admonished us about this:

1 John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

How do we know God loves us? He **showed** us!

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

We see then that love is expressed in the things we do.

John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

So, it's IMPORTANT! God Said so! Jesus gave us the command!

John said don't just give it lip service.

Well then, Considering these things, how might we show love for one another?

Here are 12 ways. There are copies of this sermon in the foyer.

1. Rejoice, Suffer and Weep together (1 Corinthians 12:26) And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.
(Romans 12:15) Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

And to know to do these, we must be in touch with one another. That's why missing any of the assemblies is a bad thing.

2. Carry each others' burdens (Galatians 6:2) Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Love will make our own burdens seem less. And the knowledge of Christ's love will strengthen us. Others looking out for US, better than just me!

3. Restore each other (Galatians 6:1) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;

We can't look down our noses at our brethren. We must want what is GOOD for our brother. Remember the Pharisee praying?

4. Confess and Pray for one another (James 5:16) Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

We must trust our brethren and covet their prayers – as we pray for others. It is how we will be healed – it's to our benefit to do so.

5. Kind, tender hearted to one another (Ephesians 4:32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Our feeling towards our brethren helps us confess and pray and restore one another, and carry one another's burdens?

6. Teach & admonish one another (Col 3:16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

The songs have a purpose. Our participation in singing, and the songs we sing, are important.

See a pattern here?

(Philippians 2:4,5) Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

7. Refresh one another (Romans 15:32) That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

What does refresh mean? Well, what do you like to have after working hard? Physical **and mental** (Spiritual) refreshment. Better enjoyed together, one without the other isn't as useful. Closely allied with the next one.

8. Encourage each other (Acts 28:15) And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

Paul was traveling to Rome. He knew he wouldn't be coming back. People that owed their very lives to him, showed him what they thought.

9. Be truthful with each other (Eph 4:25) Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Lies and untruths hurt, regardless of our intention. We must be honest with each other, and with ourselves to make it to the end. It's about trusting one another.

10. Provoke to love and good works (Heb 10:24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Agape Love – seeking another's good above your own. We'll look at each other honestly provoke – or prod – one another to do better – in a spirit of love and humility. EVEN IF IT HURTS US! Wisdom test Proverbs 9:8

11. Give to each other (Romans 15:26) For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

Why be attached to things we can't take with us, when instead we can exchange them for eternal favor with God.

Is this an original idea? No, "Lay up treasure in heaven ..."

12. Comfort one another (1 Thess 4:18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The Context was that of saints that had died before Jesus returned. But the truth is in the scriptures. We must know them to use them to build us up and to be able to encourage and comfort others.

Twelve ways in which the Lord has said we show love to one another. There are others also, but remember this, when we do it towards our brothers and sisters, we do it unto God – and He does not forget:

Hebrews 6:10 "For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister"

But first things first. Before we do these, let's remember this:

John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

You can see then that love and belief are expressed through action – not words.

And with that I'll offer the invitation

Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."