



## I. INTRO

A. I believe that the topic of love is the most foundational and important bible subject

**1 Corinthians 13:13 (TPT) <sup>13</sup> Until then, there are three things that remain: faith, hope, and love—yet love surpasses them all ...**

- The bible wasn't written in chapter and verse, but as a letter

**1 Corinthians 13:13 (TPT) <sup>13</sup> Until then, there are three things that remain: faith, hope, and love—yet love surpasses them all ... So above all else, let love be the beautiful prize for which you run.**

B. Six words from two verses that will change your life

- 1 Corinthians 13:8 (NIRV) Love never fails.
- 1 John 4:16 (NKJV) God is love
- Because God is love, love never fails

C. You need help to know what love really is

**Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIRV) <sup>17</sup> Then Christ will live in your hearts because you believe in him. And I pray that your love will have deep roots. I pray that it will have a strong foundation. <sup>18</sup> May you have power together with all the Lord's holy people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is. <sup>19</sup> And may you know his love, even though it can't be known completely. Then you will be filled with everything God has for you.**

- Love never fails, because God is love (1 Corinthians 13:8, 1 John 4:16)

## II. THIS I BELIEVE, GOD IS LOVE AND LOVE NEVER FAILS

A. God has already been defined what love is and isn't

**1 John 4:10 (NIRV) Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.**

- Love isn't really about you
  - Human love asks:
    - Am I worth it?
    - Are they worth it?

**1 John 4:11 (NKJV) Beloved, if God so loved us...**

B. We question this because we've accepted a cheap alternative to God's love

C. God loved us and sent Jesus to model it



**Romans 5:8 (NKJV) <sup>8</sup> But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**1 John 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**

- D. We have a knowing and believing problem
- If we learn it wrong – we'll live it wrong

### III. RISKY LOVE

- A. What's all this have to do with me?

**1 John 4:11 (NKJV) Beloved, if God so loved us we also ought to love one another**

**1 John 4:19 (TPT) Our love for others is *our grateful response* to the love God first demonstrated to us.**

- B. Love is risky because it carries the weight of responsibility
- God can still use you while he's developing you.
    - Your issues do not have to be a barrier to influence
    - You don't get to choose the seasons – God does.
    - Don't miss the power available to you by focusing on what you don't have or are lacking

**1 John 3:22 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup> And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**

**1 John 3:23 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ ...**

- C. When you believed, you received a new nature (2 Cor 5:17)
- Love is now your character and nature

**1 John 3:23 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ ... and love one another, as He gave us commandment.**

- D. Love isn't optional, it's a command

**1 John 4:17 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.**