



The Greatest of These is LOVE

In your Bible, turn to 1 Corinthians 13 (or see back side of this page). This is a poetic interlude on “love”. St. Paul summarizes what is most important in our human journey. Our suggestion is a little Lectio Divina (Divine Reading). Praying this alone in front of Jesus at an adoration chapel can be fruitful.

Read Verses 1-13. Rest in what you just read.

Then read it again – slowly. Only this time in verses 1-3, insert “Jesus” in all the parts that say “love” (1 John 4:16 God [Jesus] IS Love). In verses 4-7 (in Corinthians), insert your own name for “love” and finish 8-13 again with the name of “Jesus”.

Any time during this process, stop when something hits you, ponder these things in your heart and write down what comes to you.

Now read Verses 4-7 again. Read/pray it through the lens of your marriage with your heart’s eye. What comes to you, regarding the way you love your spouse, when you pray with this scripture and insert your name for “love”?

Thirdly, when contemplating and chewing on what and how you just read this verse, consider what concrete steps YOU will take to help you become more like Jesus to your spouse.

Share your experience and what stirred in your heart with your spouse.



1 Corinthians 13:1-13

(1-3)

If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

(4-7)

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

(8-13)

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present, I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.