

E-Series

You Give Love A Bad Name



1 If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I knew all the mysteries of the future and knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would I be? And if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, without love I would be no good to anybody. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would be of no value whatsoever. 4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. 6 It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 8 Love will last forever, but prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will all disappear. 9 Now we know only a little, and even the gift of prophecy reveals little! 10 But when the end comes, these special gifts will all disappear. 11 It's like this: When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. 12 Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me now. 13 There are three things that will endure – faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love." –1 Corinthians 13

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On Sunday, as a part of the sermon, I asked every person substitute his or her name in the place of love in the passage above. Of course, it's quite a stretch for most of us. As individuals, we don't measure up to that description. None of us are perfect. We are sinful broken, people. We are called to this kind of love, but more often than not we give love a bad name.

Our love pales in comparison to love as described in 1 Corinthians 13. That's because the love here described is God's love. In 1 John 4:8, we read that God **IS** love. God exists as a perfect loving communion—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Sacrificial, limitless love binds the three persons of the Trinity inextricably together. That is who God is...love.

This is significant because God's purpose for the relationship between husband and wife is to be a witness to that divine love. In other words, people should be able to look at our relationship, how we treat each other, and see a glimpse of God's love. Only, here again, we give love a bad name. None of our relationships are perfect. We hurt each other—sometimes when we don't mean to and sometimes when we do. As I mentioned on Sunday, sometimes our marriages are devastated by the Three A's (Addiction, Abuse and Adultery), but more often it is complacency that leads to communication failures that lead to criticism. We take each other for granted. We stop giving our spouses the benefit of the doubt. We stop expecting the best and start assuming the worst, and walls slowly (but surely) begin to be erected between us.

It is only through the wrecking ball of FORGIVENESS that those walls can start tumbling down. I hope that Sunday's sermon inspired you to go home and do the hard work of forgiveness in your marriage relationship.

Well, we know that we all give love a bad name because we are sinful, broken people, but I want to hear from you. How does your relationship give love a GOOD name? Let's celebrate what God is doing in your marriage. What is going right with you and your spouse?

Again, go to www.michaelturner.net and share your thoughts.

Pastor Michael