



The Best Use of My Life is Love

1/7/24

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." –Jesus, John 13:34 (NIV)

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

#1 My greatest joys and sorrows come from relationships.

"It's not good for the man to be alone..." Genesis 2:18

#2 I am God's 'love gift' to another person.

#3 Life is not simple, and neither is love.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NIV)

If I don't know how to love, what I SAY doesn't matter

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I don't know how to love, what I KNOW doesn't matter.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV)

If I don't know how to love, what I BELIEVE doesn't matter

If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV)

If I don't know how to love, what I GIVE doesn't matter

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:3 (NIV)

If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? 1 John 4:20 (MSG)

If I don't know how to love, NOTHING really matters.

There are three things that will endure—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT)

Next steps:

Know how and why God loves me.

What God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that. Ephesians 5:2 (MSG)

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Love the ones you're with.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 every day for the next week.

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, email emma@marinerscc.org