

LEARNING TO LOVE

Fruitful Living – Part 1

April 7, 2013

Ephesians 1:13 (NIV) “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...”

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP LOVE ALIVE?

I. DISCOVER What Love Is.

Popular Misconceptions About Love...

- Love is only a FEELING.
- Love is UNCONTROLLABLE.

What Does God Say About Love?

- Love is a CHOICE.

Colossians 3:14 (NIV) “And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

- Love is a matter of CONDUCT.

1 John 3:18 (NIV) “Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.”

II. ACT Like Love Acts.

REAL LOVE IS ALIVE...

1. When it has TIME. Love is *dying* when it's hurried or rushed and *dead* when it cannot wait.

1 Corinthians 13:4a (NIV) “Love is patient...”

Ephesians 4:2 (NLT) “Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.”

Patience is not just waiting with someone...
but also waiting for someone.

2. When it CARES. Love is *dying* when it forgets and *dead* when it ignores.

1 Corinthians 13:4b (NIV) “Love is kind.”

Ephesians 4:32 (NLT) “Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

3. When it's SECURE. Love is *dying* when it starts doubting and *dead* when it stops trusting.

1 Corinthians 13:4c (NIV) “It (love) does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”

4. When it's GIVING. Love is *dying* when it's exchanging and *dead* when it's taking.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV) “It (love) does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”

5. When it THINKS, FEELS and ACTS. Love is *dying* when it feels but doesn't act and *dead* when feelings become selfish.

1 Corinthians 13:7 (NIV) “It (love) always protects, it always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

Revelation 2:4b-5a (GW) “The love you had at first is gone. ⁵Remember how far you have fallen. Return to me and change the way you think and act, and do what you did at first.”