

FOUNDATIONS

PART 4 - LOVE

LOVE

Love. What a big word for having only four letters! Love has influenced so many big events in our world. Love for power has caused wars; love for a person has resulted in the construction of some of the world's most beautiful buildings (like the Taj Mahal!); love for money has sparked a global drug crisis; and love for people has meant that over 160,000 charities exist in the UK alone!

So, if love can result in good and bad things happening, then what's going wrong? Is there a correct way to love? The answer is yes!

One of the most famous passages in the Bible is found in Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth - you can read it on the next page - in which he explains how we are meant to love. You might read it and think, "How are we supposed to love like this 24/7?!" Well, the amazing thing is that God loves us this way - he loves us perfectly. God's perfect example of love helps to show us how to love others this way.

One of the best examples that God shows us of his love is when he sent his son, Jesus, to die in our place. The famous Bible verse in John 3:16 says; *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that whoever believes in him would not perish, but have everlasting life."*

I really hope that when you do this Bible study you will realise just how much God really loves you!

Don't forget there are four parts to the 'Foundations' series. Perhaps you would like to re-read them? To do this, please visit our website - lmi-org.net/yso-studies

ENJOY!

BIBLE PASSAGE

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends...

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-8; 13 (ESV)

PRAYER

Lord God, thank you so much that you love me in this way. Thank you that you're ready to forgive me when I admit that I have done wrong. Thank you that you keep no record of the mistakes that I make and of the bad things that I do. Thank you for loving me so much that you gave your only son to die in my place, so that my sins would be forgiven. Help me to love other people in this way and help me to love you more each day. Thank you that your love for me will never end! Amen

FURTHER READING

A Psalm about God's love:
Psalm 103

Jesus' commandment about love:
John 15:12-13

Loving each other:
Romans 12:9-10

QUESTION TIME

List 5 things that love *is/does*:

List 5 things that love *isn't/doesn't do*:

Are there ways in which you can improve how you love others?

Why do you think Paul says if he hasn't got love he is nothing?

CHALLENGE

We can love other people by forgiving them, spending time with them and showing our interest in them. Think of ways this week that you can demonstrate God's love to other people. Write a list of ideas and work your way through them!