

# THE RULE OF LOVE!

## LESSON TEXT:

1 Corinthians 13 NLT.

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. <sup>3</sup> 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 have gained nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. <sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. <sup>7</sup> Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

<sup>8</sup> Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! <sup>9</sup> Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! <sup>10</sup> But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup> Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a 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 now knows me completely.

<sup>13</sup> Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

## I. LESSON POINT #1---GOD IS LOVE!

- a. Love, is not just one of God's attributes, love's true definition is.....**GOD!**

### **1 John 4:8**

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

### **1 John 4:16**

<sup>16</sup> We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. **God is love**, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

## II. GOD HAS A LOT TO SAY ABOUT LOVE!

**1 Corinthians 16:14**

Let all that you do be done in love.

**John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**1 Peter 4:8**

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

**Colossians 3:14**

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**John 13:34**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

**John 15:13**

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

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

**Mark 12:29-31**

Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

**1 John 4:19**

We love because he first loved us.

**Matthew 22:36-40**

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**Proverbs 10:12**

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

**1 John 4:7**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

**1 John 4:18**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

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; ...

**Ephesians 5:25**

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

**Romans 5:8**

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**John 14:15**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

**Ephesians 4:2**

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

**Proverbs 17:17**

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

**1 John 3:1**

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

**Romans 12:9**

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

**Luke 6:35**

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

**III. THE DISTINGUISHING FACTOR OF A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS IS,.....LOVE!****John 13:34-35**

<sup>34</sup>So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup>Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

**IV. HOW CAN WE SHOW LOVE DURING THIS COVID-19 PANDEMIC?**

- a. There are several ways:
  - i. Calling and checking on one another
  - ii. Sharing food with those who are struggling
  - iii. Encouraging those who are fearful and apprehensive
  - iv. Praying for those who are afraid, struggling, loss their job, struggling with “Cabin-Fever!”
  - v. Inviting people to be a part of your churches online community!
  - vi. Etc.