

19 April

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in the message:

TOPIC: 1 Cor.13 - Let LOVE increase and fear decrease

 Let's hear your story

1. How would you describe the word love in your own words?
2. What is the greatest commandment according to Jesus in Matthew 22:37? (Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all you soul and with all your mind.)
3. In what ways can we show or demonstrate our love to one another? (see 1 Cor.13).

 Let's go deeper

4. Who is the perfect and complete example and revelation of love shown and demonstrated to mankind? (See John 3:16).
5. What comes more naturally for you; to be patient or to be kind?
6. In Matt.27:18 (NKJV), what was the motive for arresting Jesus?(Envy)
7. What describes envy the best selfless love or selfish love? (Selfish love or self-interest)
8. Why is love not boastful or proud? (love focus on others, not on self)

 Let's apply this

9. Here are some ways to help you be more patient this week:
  - Give thanks and rejoice in God's will for your life (Phil.4:4).
  - Look for God's purpose, in making you wait and be patient.
  - Remind yourself that God wants the best for you (Rom.8:28).
  - Renew you mind – you are a new creation (2 Cor.5:17).
10. Here are some ways to show kindness to someone this week:
  - Share your food with someone or take food for a sick friend.
  - Encourage someone who is discouraged.
  - Treat all people with dignity and respect in words and actions.

SUMMARY:

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1 – 4

**Jesus Christ is our perfect and complete example of love**

When Jesus died on the cross; God said to mankind I love you, I forgive you, I choose you, I will provide and protect you, you are important to me.

**Ephesians 3:17**, I (Paul) pray that you being rooted and established in love Our prayer is that we will all be rooted like a tree with our roots deeply rooted in Christ (the soil) and also that we will be established like a strong and solid structure or building upon Christ the Cornerstone and Foundation stone.

**1 Cor.13:1**, Paul emphasize and highlights that love is the most excellent way. Greek word for **tongues "glossa" of men**, which means a natural language. The same "glossa" word appears in Acts 2:4. In Acts 2, people were drawn to hear the Good news, but in 1 Cor.13, Paul writes to the believers that without love they are just making a noise. **Tongues of angels**, refers to the Holy Spirit enabling us to speak a language to God that He understands. Paul use the Greek word "**agape**" for **love** and agape is self-giving love that gives without demanding or expecting repayment. It is love that loves even when it is rejected.

**1 Cor.13:2**, Paul writes and says without love we are nothing, and gain nothing. The gift of prophecy is the ability to bring a message or inspiration from God to people. To fathom all mysteries and knowledge refers to the spiritual gifts of wisdom and knowledge in a specific situation (see 1 Cor.12:8). And Faith that can move mountains, is the gift of faith God gives to enable us to do mighty works for Him (see 1 Cor.12:9).

**1 Cor.13:3**, if I give or surrender all I possess to the poor; refers to a great personal sacrifice of one's possessions, and then giving it all to the poor. And if I surrender or yield my body to hardship or suffering that I may boast, but I do not have love – I gain nothing.

**1 Cor.14:4**, love is patient – our patience shows the world that we have faith in God's timing, God's plan, and His love for us, because we believe He knows best. **Examples:** Job (James 5:10-11); Abraham (Hebrews 6:15) and Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).

**Love is kind**, Greek word for kind is "chrestotes" meaning, to show oneself useful. We are generous, warm, caring, gentle not harsh; hospitable and bless others. **Example:** Jesus is our perfect example of kindness by healing, restoring, forgiving...

**Love does not envy** – envy means to burn with zeal or boil over with hatred / anger. **Love does not boast** – boast means to brag or point to oneself. **Love is not proud** – proud means to puff up or blow up; "having a big head."