





Love Thy Neighbor

How to love people in turbulent times

A HCC Sermon Series

Today's Message:
Loving people who drive you nuts!
1 Corinthians 13

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1 Corinthians 13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

5 BQs today!

1. What is love?
2. How does God love?
3. What does Christ ask of his followers?
4. What is the distinguishing mark of a follower of Jesus?
5. OK, but what about the knuckleheads?

1. What is Love?



1 Corinthians 13

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Affection

Friendship

THE
FOUR
LOVES

C.S.Lewis

Eros

Charity

Storge Love

This is the first (of four) Greek words for love. This can be roughly thought of as an affectionate, familial quality of love. It's the feeling you have for your parents, for your brother or sister, or for your kids. It can even be the affection you feel towards for your dog or cat.

A group of people, including men and women, are shown from behind, embracing each other in a warm hug. The scene is set against a soft, warm-toned background, possibly a sunset or sunrise, which adds to the emotional and affectionate atmosphere of the image. The text is overlaid on this scene.

Philia Love

The second type of Greek love is philia. Philia is the reciprocal quality of love you feel for a friend. The author CS Lewis wrote that Philia produces the fewest pains and most pleasures. He described philia as the "crown of life."

A romantic scene of a couple kissing in a field of green leaves. The woman is in the foreground, and the man is behind her, their faces close together. The background is a soft-focus field of green foliage.

Eros Love

Eros is the third (of four) Greek words for Love. Eros is the romantic flavor of love. It's passionate, it's rapturous, it's euphoric. It's what the greatest songs have been sung about, what the greatest poems have been written about.

Agape Love

A woman with long dark hair is sitting on a bed, smiling and looking upwards. She is wearing a black top and has her hands clasped together. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

Agape is the last (of the four) Greek words for love. There's something within you containing all the love you could ever ask for. You don't need a partner, don't need your family, you don't need anything to tune into this energy. Imagine this: never feeling lonely again, never feeling empty again, always feeling fulfilled. This is what you'll gain when you experience Agape.

There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.



~ C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, page 23.

2. How does God love?



1 John 4:8-11

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. What does Christ ask of his followers?



Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

4. What is the distinguishing mark of a follower of Jesus?



John 13:34-35

³⁴“ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

5. What about the knuckleheads?



Matthew 5:43-44

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Are we in Agreement here?

YES

MAYBE

NO

Are we in Agreement here?

YES

MAYBE

NO

Processing

A v o i d a n c e
(Indifference)

Are we in Agreement here?

YES

MAYBE

NO

Acceptance

Promotion

Are we in Agreement here?

YES

MAYBE

NO

Repulsion/
Hatred

Tolerance



why can't we all just agree
(with me)



Steve Treichler

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Intro

You can take the boy out of the Iron Range, but you'll never take the Iron Range out of the boy.

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Steve Treichler

February 4 at 9:25 AM

...

I actually feel really bad for the Iowa Democratic Party today. I've made some bonehead mistakes in my life, but they are not amplified x a million as this is. So, in honor of my own personal history of boo boos, I am going to refrain from any Iowa jokes today.

Tomorrow, however, it's business as usual!

[Julia Shaw](#), [Marten Mincks](#) and 103 others

18 Comments





Timothy Keller ✓

@timkellernyc



Tolerance isn't about not having beliefs. It's about how your beliefs lead you to treat people who disagree with you.

1:39 PM · Jun 28, 2018 · [Buffer](#)

1.2K Retweets **3.1K** Likes

Do you love me ?

YES

NO

MAYBE

Do you love me ?

YES

NO

MAYBE

It could be argued that America has never really been a genuinely pluralistic, perspective-diverse, free society. We have never been a place where people who deeply differ with one another, whose views offend and outrage one another, nonetheless treat one another with respect and hear each other out. Those who have held the reins of cultural power — its greatest academic centers, its most powerful corporations, and the media — have always excluded unpopular voices and minority views that fell on the wrong side of the public morality of the day.

Many white evangelical Christians in the 1980's and 90's wanted to occupy those places of power and showed little concern at the time to create a society that respected communities with sharply differing moral visions. Today cultural power has shifted, but those newly come to power seem to show as little interest in genuine pluralism as did the cultural elites in the past. If anything, observers argue that different perspectives and viewpoints are treated with even less respect and courtesy than in the past. The agenda has become not to engage, but to marginalize and silence.

What will it take to create genuinely pluralistic society? That will start not in the courtroom (though the courts are important) but primarily in neighborhoods, at the local level. John Inazu's *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving through Deep Difference* (University of Chicago Press, 2016) shows the way. He calls for us to come together with our neighbors around what he calls "aspirations" of *tolerance, humility, and patience*.

Tolerance is neither indifference (we may be appalled at the other person's views) nor acceptance. It means rather treating the other person with respect even if we find her ideas difficult to endure.

Humility is not to doubt the truth of one's own beliefs, but to recognize the limits of what we can prove to others. Even if your Christian, Muslim, or secular views of the world and morality are true, there is no way to prove them to all rational persons. And that should humble you.

Finally, *patience* does not mean passivity, nor does it mean to countenance injustice or evil. Yet if there is tolerance and humility, they should lead us to also be slow to posit motives, to be careful but persistent in our efforts to understand, to even empathize and to take time to communicate our own point of view. In sum, we should tolerate rather than demonize, we should be humble rather than defensive, and we should seek patiently to work toward as much agreement as possible, rather than simply trying to coerce the other side.

**“I disapprove
of what you
say, but I will
defend to the
death your
right to say it.”**

Evelyn Beatrice Hall
from “Friends of Voltaire” (1906)
written under pseudonym, S.G. Tallentyre



What is Christian Tolerance?

Because of what Christ has done for me in the gospel
(showing his love to all those he disagreed with)

I am moved to truly treat others through
Christian Tolerance, which is:

Disagreeing with others while I am:

Getting my identity from Jesus (I'm OK in Jesus),

Loving them,

Respecting them,

And listening with humility.



CONGRESS (IN)ACTION

GOD IS LOVE!

1 Corinthians 13

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Gospel Application

*Will you lovingly participate in
Communion today with people you most
likely disagree with, but deeply love?*