

Relational Temperature

Introduction

“¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² 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. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, ESV)

1. The Necessity of Love

2. The Reason to Love

“If love is the soul of Christian existence, it must be at the heart of every other Christian virtue. Thus, for example, justice without love is legalism; faith without love is ideology; hope without love is self-centeredness; forgiveness without love is self-abasement; fortitude without love is recklessness; generosity without love is extravagance; care without love is mere duty; fidelity without love is servitude. Every virtue is an expression of love. No virtue is really a virtue unless it is permeated, or informed, by love.” (Richard McBrien, *Catholicism*, p. 939)

Key Areas of Communication (from *Emotionally Healthy Relationships*):

- Appreciation: "I appreciate you doing..."
- Puzzles/Confusion: "I'm puzzled. Why...?"
- Complaints with Solutions: "I notice... And I prefer..."
- New Information: "I wanted to share some new information..."
- Hopes and Wishes: "I hope..." or "I wish..."

3. The Source of Love

"¹⁹ We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19, ESV)

Digging Deeper

This Week's Passages:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 13

Tuesday: 1 John 1

Wednesday: 1 John 2

Thursday: 1 John 3

Friday: 1 John 4

Saturday: 1 John 5

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of what God is saying to you. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word ("*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*" James 1:22).