

**Scripture: Romans 13:10**

Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, (and) always perseveres.

**Insight**

It all comes down to love. The Greek word for love in these verses is *agape*, which is the type of love shown to mankind by God through the giving of Jesus on the cross as atonement for our sins. It is an unconditional love with great desire and appreciation. This type of unconditional (*agape*) love is what enables our reconciliation with him in spite of our short-comings.

When we think about how easy it is to show harm through our actions (or lack thereof) and our words, it reveals how important it is to work that much harder at showing *agape* love. When we decide to show *agape* love to our spouse, it has the power to break down all the walls that are built over time.

1 Corinthians 13 provides us with an understanding of *agape* love and is one of the most popular verses read at many weddings. We need to take the time to ask ourselves if we are really living it out in our marriages. Are you patient when your spouse is struggling to overcome their challenges? Are you rude when your spouse doesn't do what you want? Do you put your spouse's interests above your own? Do you get easily angered over the small stuff? Do you bring up things from the past? Do you protect your spouse from your own harsh words? Do you trust your spouse? Do you give your spouse hope? Do you work through the tough times?

Don't be discouraged! 1 Corinthians 13 is not intended to let you know your short-comings, but instead reveals the encouragement to know the love we can show by strengthening our relationship with Christ.

**Sharing**

Talk together this week about ways that God shows *agape* love and also talk about:

- Ways that you can show *agape* love towards your family and others
- What makes you feel loved
- Times that you felt loved the most

During the week, make a point to show *agape* love even when you don't want to and talk about the results together.