**I Love You**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

June 26, 2025

**Introduction**

 The most powerful words in the English language are: God loves you

 This phrase is only found in Dt23:5, God did not listen to Balaams curse

but give a blessing to His people – because the Lord your God loves you

 similar use of words is in Jer 31:3 – I have loved you with an everlasting love

 In the NT, at least three verses express God loves you

 J3:16 J15:13 Ro 5:8

 when U look at or think about Jesus dying on the cross - God saying ‘I love you’

 The words ‘I love you’ are most powerful used in the English language between ppl

 I love you is only used 4X’s in the Bible in this way of one person loving another

 Judge 16:15 Delilah to Samson

 John 21:15,16,17 – Peter 3X in response to Jesus’ question

 Twice Jesus said that His disciples were to love one another as He loved them

 J13:34-35 and 15:12

 What do we mean or what should we mean when we say: I love you

 Note, love is not used here with any romantic notions

The romantic notion of ‘I loveU’ is expressed in SongofSolomon ovr35X’s

Today, I want 2take a break fm Matthew Revitalization series and do a topical mssg wU on ‘I Love You’ based on non-romantic notions of love in 1Co13, the love chapter

 We are celebrating Art and Diane Hurlbut’s 50th wedding anniversary.

 Since I have been here, I hv seen 5couples have their 50th, it is a special occasion

 Love an important part of marriage, but what love means important to everyone

 Also thinking abt what shld we mean when we say ‘I love you’ in life is important

 When you say ‘I love you’, what should it mean?

**1st When You Say ‘I Love You’ Without Love - You Are Nothing 1-3**

A. Without love, you may have the most eloquent words among men or angels – it is just noise i.e. nothing worth listening to 1

B. Without love, you may understand and explain spiritual mysteries and have faith to

remove mountains

– but you are nothing 2

C. Without love, you may do many good things with your life

– but it profits you nothing 3

A person may say and do many good things but without love you are nothing. Nothing

I think of what Jesus said in John 15:5 – without Me, you can do nothing.

**2nd When You Say ‘I Love You’ -This Love Does All Good Things 4-7**

 A. This love does good

 Suffering long i.e. patience

 Kindness

 B. This love does *not* do bad

 Envy

 Parading or boasting about oneself

 Puffed up – proud, fill of oneself

 Rude behavior

 Self-seeking interests

 Being easily provoked to respond negatively

 Thinking evil

 Rejoicing with immoral or grossly unfair behavior

 C. This loves does all good things

 Rejoicing in the truth

 Bearing all things that must be carried in life

 Believing all things of God

 Hoping in all things

 Enduring through all things

 When U do things wlove, all things Udo are w love, love shows in all things all the time

 Note that all these good things cost nothing. No monetary or material value at all.

**3rd When You Say ‘I Love You’ - This Love Never Fails 8-10**

 A. Love never fails 8a fail or fall, a simple powerful statement

 B. Other things fail 8b-

 Prophecies – they will fail

 Tongues – they will cease

 Knowledge – it will vanish away

 Explanation

 We know in part

 We prophecy in part

 But when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away

 Perfect here perfect love, Christ like love, love never fails/ceases

 Love is the best we can do, love never fails, all else may fail but love never fails

**4th When You Say ‘I Love You’ - This Love Grows Up 11-12**

 A. Child-like immaturity 11

 When I was a child I

 Spoke as a child

 Understood as a child

 Thought as a child

 But when I became a man i.e. I grew up

 I put away childish things

 B. Spiritual maturity 12

 Now we see in a mirror dimly

 But we shall see face to face

 Now I know in part

 But then I shall know fully just as I am fully known

 As we grow in faith our speaking, understanding and thinking about love grows up

 Now when I say I love you I understand it differently than I used to

and I understand that I will understand it better as I continue to grow.

**5th When You Say ‘I Love You’ This Love Is The Greatest Way 13**

 A. Three great ways to order ones life

 Faith – believing, trusting

 Hope – expecting better things ahead, anticipation of better things

 Love – what 1 Co 13 has been saying

 B. The greatest way is the way of love

 The way of Jesus Christ

 Loved you so much He gave His life for you

 Love in which nothing is left out when Usay I love you

 Love in all things

 Love that never fails, all the time

 Love that looks to Jesus as your standard

 Love is the best of the best ways