**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