



LOVE



First Corinthians 13:1-13

“Faith, Hope and Love Abide. These three. But the greatest of these is Love.”

St. Paul writes as he instructs the people of Corinth how to treat each other; how to treat all people. Do not be arrogant or rude, envious or boastful. But instead, endure all things, hope all things, believe all things. This is a powerful message. This passage from scriptures is very often used at weddings. Some couples want to use something different because, “First Corinthians is a bit overused isn’t it?”

NO! It cannot be overused! We could read it, say it, hear it 10 times a day and it would still be true and be helpful in our lives as we strive to love our neighbor as ourselves. Very often we need to remember to be kind to ourselves, to be enduring of all things in ourselves as we struggle with habits, unhelpful emotions, negative self talk and past baggage. Love yourself. Then for those of us in this world who encounter at least one other person on a daily basis, First Corinthians 13 reminds us of how we are to treat other people. And you have to read all 13 verses, the whole chapter because St. Paul also reminds us that we are still in our human linear time when we don’t know everything! Now we see in a mirror dimly, then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part, then I will know fully even as I am fully known. We have to have faith that we are children of a loving creator God who we will come to know in due time fully and completely. We have to have hope that the time when we see God face to face will come and pray that it comes today. We have to love like God loves us, fully and completely just as we are now, and having faith and hope that we will continue to strive to be the best we can be in this life even as we know only in part.

Valentine’s Day is tomorrow. Celebrate! Celebrate love! Celebrate loving God, celebrate loving yourself first and foremost. Browse the card section and pick the card you would send to yourself. But remember, love is not arrogant or boastful, but humble. This is a holiday that we can reclaim as one that celebrates romantic love and more, self love, God’s love, agape love, hesed, the abundant steadfast love of God, that we can share with all people.

Fill your senses with love for God, for yourself. Then, pick a card and give it to someone, anyone, a lover, a sister, a child, a friend or a stranger. Remind the world that faith, hope and love abide and the greatest of these is love.

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