

“These Three Remain” Series, Part 3
“Faith Hope **LOVE**”

Dr. Janet Cook, Senior Pastor
Sunday, July 24, 2016

© 2016 Prayers Ministries, Inc., dba River of Life Community Church

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NIV Bible.

1 Corinthians 13:13 “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

FAITH

- Faith is the assurance that God will do what He says He will do and acting on that conviction.

HOPE

- Hope is something that gives us a reason and motivation to move forward.
- Hope that comes from God is the kind that holds on even when circumstances change.

LOVE

The Greatest is Love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-6 When Paul talked about love to the church at Corinth, he wrote, “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

- Love Is the More Excellent Way.

Characteristics of Love

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NKJV).

We are going to read these same verses from the MSG translation:

“Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (MSG).

The Greatest Commandment is Love.

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

- Love is a decision.
- Love is action.

Listen to these words:

Ephesians 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

Hebrews 12:14 “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

It’s Time to Grow Up.

1 Corinthians 13:11 “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.”

- Love is more excellent than Spiritual Gifts.
- Spiritual Gifts are a demonstration of our love for people.
- Spiritual Gifts are a demonstration of our obedience to God.

Demonstrate Faith and Love.

John 14:15 - "If you love me, keep my commands.”

James 2:18-19 “But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

Good Samaritan- A Bible Lesson on Love

Luke 10:25-37 “On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘What is written in the Law?’ he replied. ‘How do you read it? He answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;’ and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ‘You have answered correctly,’ Jesus replied. ‘Do this and you will live. But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he

came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'"

- GO AND DO LIKEWISE.

The church's responsibility is to demonstrate the Love of God to the world.
The world is hungering and thirsting for answers. and the answer is God's Love.

The most loving people are the ones with the greatest faith and hope for what God is doing and is going to do through His Church. Lord make us an instrument of your Peace!