



13. Loving the Lost

Loving some lost people can be difficult. They can be argumentative, insulting, profane, and as sinful as Jude 1:23 describes, *“Save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.”* So how can we love them? The answer is 1 Corinthians 14:3-8 ... in the context of using our spiritual gifts ... applicable in marriage but intended for use toward other believers and in loving lost family and friends. Think about them as you listen to my paraphrase.

Love does not lose heart.

Love is gentle and considerate ... helpful rather than hurtful.

Love is not distrustful or suspicious.

Love doesn't brag about oneself ... but focusses on Christ instead of self.

Love isn't rude, discourteous, or obnoxious.

Love puts the other person first.

Love doesn't get provoked or angry ... has thick skin and a tender heart.

Love doesn't keep score ... forgets the insults.

Love neither joins in nor approves of their sin.

Love rejoices in the truth of the Gospel.

Love silently absorbs the verbal punches and wounds.

Love has unquenchable faith and confident expectation.

Love is steadfast and unrelentingly persistent.

Love never falls down, never quits, never stops.

The love of Christ, His love for us and His love for the lost, pushes us unrelentingly onward to save the lost.

Here are some great words from the Apostle Paul from 2 Corinthians 5:14-20, *“The love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him ... therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”*

www.NotJustMilk.org ... written by John D. Morris III

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