

THE GOD, WHO IS LOVE, IS STRENGTH IN US

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WORKING DEFINITION OF LOVE

- ▶ #1: Love begins with a desire to please God.
 - ▶ Mark 12:30-31 MSG: “So love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy. [31] And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ There is no other commandment that ranks with these.”
 - ▶ Romans 12:3 NKJV: “...not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly...”

WORKING DEFINITION OF LOVE

- ▶ #2: Love is the greatest thing we can do.
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 13:13 NCV: “So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.”
- ▶ #3: Love is a debt we owe everyone.
 - ▶ Romans 13:8 MSG: “Don’t’ run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you OWE each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along.”

WORKING DEFINITION OF LOVE

- ▶ #4: Love is not a feeling first; love is an act of the will.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a NCV:
 - ▶ [4] Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud.
 - ▶ [5] Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done.
 - ▶ [6] Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth.
 - ▶ [7] Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures.
 - ▶ [8] Love never ends.

WORKING DEFINITION OF LOVE

- ▶ #5: Love is an action.

- ▶ 1 John 3:18 NCV: “My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring.”

5 ACTIONS LOVE PROVOKES US TO DO...

▶ #1: Connection.

- ▶ Matthew 5:45b MSG: “This is what God does. He gives His best – the sun to warm and the rain to nourish – to everyone regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty.”
- ▶ Revelations 3:20 KJV: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

5 ACTIONS LOVE PROVOKES US TO DO...

▶ #2: Commitment.

- ▶ Hebrews 13:5b MSG: “Since God assured us, “I’ll never let you down, never walk off and leave you,”
- ▶ Jeremiah 3:14a MSG: “Turn back, fickle Israel, I’m not just hanging back to punish you, I’m committed in love to you.”

5 ACTIONS LOVE PROVOKES US TO DO...

▶ #3: Costly.

- ▶ John 3:16-17 NKJV: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”
- ▶ Romans 5:8 NKJV: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

5 ACTIONS LOVE PROVOKES US TO DO...

- ▶ #4: Cover.
- ▶ Colossians 3:12-14 MSG:
 - ▶ [12] So chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline.
 - ▶ [13] Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you.
 - ▶ [14] And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

5 ACTIONS LOVE PROVOKES US TO DO...

▶ #4: Cover.

- ▶ 1 Peter 4:8 NKJV: “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.”

5 ACTIONS LOVE PROVOKES US TO DO...

- ▶ #5: Challenge.

- ▶ 1 John 4:20 NCV:

- ▶ If people say, “I love God,” but hate their brothers or sisters, they are liars. Those who do not love their brothers and sisters, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have never seen.

5 ACTIONS LOVE PROVOKES US TO DO...

- ▶ #5: Challenge.
- ▶ Luke 6:27-31 NKJV:
- ▶ [27]“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
- ▶ [28] bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.
- ▶ [29] To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either.

5 ACTIONS LOVE PROVOKES US TO DO...

- ▶ #5: Challenge.

- ▶ Luke 6:27-31 KJV

- ▶ [30] Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.

- ▶ [31] And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.