

LOVE IN THE GAPS

STAYING POWER | WEEK TWO
1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

January 10th, 2016
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THE HEART OF LOVE = ACTION

THIS CONCEPT IS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO HOW CULTURE PORTRAYS "LOVE"

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

1 JOHN 3:18

ACTION ORIENTED LOVE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL RELATIONSHIPS.

Jesus said, "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."

1 JOHN 13:34

PLAN FOR LOVE IN 2016

Do you have a plan for showing love in 2016 in your most important relationships?

1. To put another person above ourselves is supernatural and takes God's love. How can you show those you love that "you are the priority?"
2. If you are married, renew your commitment to show love to your spouse in action. What could you do to demonstrate your decision to love them this week? This year?

This morning we will talk about ONE all-important decision, that we all make in relationships on a constant basis

THE LOVE CHAPTER

1 CORINTHIANS 13 is one of the most familiar chapters in the Bible, even for people unfamiliar with Christianity and the church.

"Stripped from its context, it is seen as a poetic meditation on love that is as humanly impossible as it is lyrically beautiful. But Paul never intended this section of this letter to function as a solitary meditation on romantic love."

PASTOR KEVIN CAWLEY,

Future Hope and Present Love, ESV Men's Devotional Bible

THE LOVE CLIMATE IN CORINTH

The Corinthians were failing to embody love (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
Don't we often find ourselves in the same predicament?

- Being SELF-FOCUSED in relationships is our human default.
- The love of Jesus Christ compels us toward SELF-SACRIFICE.

QUIT ACTING LIKE KIDS

“when I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:11

- In our marriage and in our relationships, we must abandon the emotional patterns of children.

A TALL ORDER

“Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

- “Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” NASB
- “It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” - NIV

In your marriage, doesn't it feel like there is evidence to the contrary?

WHAT DO WE DO IN THE GAPS?

(ADAPTED FROM ANDY STANLEY'S STAYING IN LOVE)

In every relationship there is a gap between what we **EXPECT** and how people **BEHAVE**

OUR DECISION IS:

Will we ASSUME THE BEST? Or will we BELIEVE THE WORST?

EXPECTATIONS BEHAVIORS

What we put in the gap begins in our MINDS.

- We all put something in this gap. It begins in our minds and comes out in our words, body language, and behaviors.

TWO FACTORS THAT DETERMINE WHAT YOU PUT IN THE GAP:

- WHAT YOU SEE (You see certain behaviors - or lack of behaviors - and you have to interpret them)
- WHO YOU ARE (the culmination of your upbringing, relationships, insecurities, etc.)

A TALL ORDER

- Where do YOU naturally go?
- Where does your SPOUSE naturally go?

“Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

- Happily married couples LEARN to assume the best

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

EMPOWERED: Jesus empowers us to “Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” - Luke 6:31

- What if you decided to do for her, what you hope she'd do for you?
- What if you decided to do for him, what you hope he'd do for you?

EMBRACE THE GOSPEL: God made love a verb by sending his Son to die for us.

EXAMPLE: Our goal should be to lead by example. We will be a witness to the world, if we choose to fill the gap with FAITH and TRUST.