

What is love?
It is silence--when your words would hurt.
It is patience--when your neighbor's curt.
It is deafness--when a scandal flows.
It is thoughtfulness--for other's woes.
It is promptness--when stern duty calls.
It is courage--when misfortune falls.

Source Unknown.

It is natural to love them that love us, but it is supernatural to love them that hate us.

Source Unknown.

January 31, 2010 Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30 -- Notes

Songs:

- Love, love me do. . . you know I love you. . .
- All you need is love (ba, ba, ba, ba)
- Jesus loves me. . .

Being at wedding receptions and having to sing a song with the word “love” in it to get the bride and the groom to kiss (especially good when the cups are plastic)

When people hear this text from 1 Corinthians, most people immediately think of weddings. This text was one of the scripture passages at my own wedding 11-1/2 years ago. It's often called the love chapter. Often used at weddings I've officiated at, so I have preached on this text many times. And yet, Paul did not write these words for a wedding or for marriage. It wasn't used for two individuals and their commitment for each other – it was written for the unity and love within a community, specifically written for the community in Corinth. When there is a time of division, there is a need to hear about the uniting fact of God's love in Christ.

I still don't mind having this text at weddings, though. Typically at a wedding that I am a part of, I will have the couple turn and face all of their family and friends – not to scare them to see how many people are there – but to let them know that

they are not alone in the relationship to one another. It's not just about the vows that the couple says to each other, it's about the support and care that they are and will receive from those who attend their wedding; it's also about the community.

Love shapes us as well as gives us meaning. (Long)

Stories about love in action:

- Haiti – husband who didn't give up on finding his wife under the rubble even after they brought the big equipment in. Every time they would take a load of rubble, he would be in there yelling his wife's name. Amazingly, she answered. She was a secretary in that building when it collapsed on her. When they got water, a light, and a microphone down to her, she wanted to let her husband know that even if she died now, she needed him to know that she loved him. They did pull her out of the rubble and she started to sing.
- Children and the need for touch/contact in the early parts of their lives. Not just hear a voice of love, but feeling the love and care by another through touch.
- The movie entitled *Up* shows love in action when the older man, who lost his wife, tries to fulfill her dream, but in the end discovers another dream in sharing love for a young boy who needs a mentor.

“Unity and difference can be acknowledged, respected, and celebrated only when love is in the center of what we do and who we are as a Christian community.”
(Karoline Lewis, Luther Seminary)

(Note: We will be on vacation from Feb. 4-11th, so there will not be any postings for the week of Feb. 7th)