

Bible study on love, lovingkindness.

1 corinthians 13

The Gift of Love

1 **3** If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 john 4:16

¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Hosea 2:19

And I will take you for my wife for ever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in loving-kindness, and in mercy.

Isaiah 16:5

Then a throne shall be established in loving-kindness
in the tent of David,
and on it shall sit in faithfulness
a ruler who seeks justice
and is swift to do what is right.

List of texts in the Hebrew Scripture where Hesed occurs...

List of verses in which the word occurs

Gen 19:19; 20:13; 21:23; 24:12,14,27,49; 32:10; 39:21; 40:14;
47:29; Exod 15:13; 20:6; 34:6,7; Lev 20:17; Num 14:18,19; Deut
5:10; 7:9,12; Josh 2:12,14; Judges 1:24; 8:35; Ruth 1:8; 2:20;
3:10; 1 Sam 15:6; 20:8,14,15; 2 Sam 2:5,6; 3:8; 7:15; 9:1,3,7;
10:2; 15:20; 16:17; 22:51; 1 Kings 2:7; 3:6; 8:23; 20:31; 1 Chron
16:34,41; 17:13; 19:2; 2 Chron 1:8; 5:13; 6:14,42; 7:3,6; 20:21;
24:22; 32:32; 35:26; Ezra 3:11; 7:28; 9:9; Neh 1:5; 9:17,32;
13:14,22; Esther 2:9,17; Job 6:14; 10:12; 37:13; Psalms 5:7; 6:4;
13:5; 17:7; 18:50; 21:7; 23:6; 25:6,7,10; 26:3; 31:7,16,21; 32:10;
33:5,18,22; 36:5,7,10; 40:10,11; 42:8; 44:26; 48:9; 51:1; 52:1,8;
57:3,10; 59:10,16,17; 61:7; 62:12; 63:3; 66:20; 69:13,16; 77:8;
85:7,10; 86:5,13,15; 88:11; 89:1,2,14,24,28,33,49; 90:14; 92:2;
94:18; 98:3; 100:5; 101:1; 103:4,8,11,17; 106:1,7,45;
107:1,8,15,21,31,43; 108:4; 109:12,16,21,26; 115:1; 117:2;
118:1,2,3,4,29; 119:41,64,76,88,124,149,159; 130:7;
136:1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23
,24,25,26; 138:2,8; 141:5; 143:8,12; 144:2; 145:8; 147:11; Prov
3:3; 11:17; 14:22,34; 16:6; 19:22; 20:6,28; 21:21; 31:26; Isaiah
16:5; 40:6; 54:8,10; 55:3; 57:1; 63:7; Jer 2:2; 9:24; 16:5; 31:3;
32:18; 33:11; Lam 3:22,32; Dan 1:9; 9:4; Hos 2:19; 4:1; 6:4,6;
10:12; 12:6; Joel 2:13; Jonah 2:8; 4:2; Micah 6:8; 7:18,20; Zec
7:9.

NOTES

Christian writers have generally described *agape*, as expounded on by Jesus, as a form of love which is both unconditional and voluntary.

In truth, prior to the Christian era it seems the word was not so clearly defined, but somewhat interchangeable with *Philia*. *Eros* denoted erotic affection, somewhere between lust and infatuation, but shorn of the selfless nature of *Agape*.

This word, sometimes translated as Charity is the New Testament heir to *Hesed* – ‘lovingkindness’.

Loving-kindness (or "lovingkindness") is a term coined by Myles Coverdale for his Coverdale Bible of 1535, as an English translation of the Hebrew word *hesed* (which appears in the Latin Vulgate as "misericordia"); in that text it is spelled "louinge kyndnesse". It is also used in this sense in the American Standard Version and various other versions of the Bible. It is sometimes associated with the Greek term *agape*.

Questions.

1. What comes first as Christians? Loving-kindness or righteousness?
2. Is it better to be right or loving?
3. What defines your experience (not learning, but *experience*) of God?
4. Is spiritual progress possible without love?
5. What does ‘Pastoral necessity’ mean to you (ask Pastor to define)
6. What are the implications for unconditional love in your life?