

LOVE



LIGHT OF DAMARIS

Galatians 5:22-23

ESV

But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Love, defined by Oxford, is “an intense feeling of fondness or attraction, deeper and stronger than liking.”

Merriam-Webster defines love as “strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties ... affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests ... an assurance of affection ... warm attachment, enthusiasm, or devotion ... the object of attachment, devotion, or admiration ... a beloved person ... unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another ... the fatherly concern of God for humankind ... brotherly concern for others ... [and] a person's adoration of God.”

These are two different definitions and Merriam-Webster has a more complex or comprehensive definition. However, we should not look at just a worldly definition, but also a biblical one.

The Bible defines love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. **Love** is patient and kind; **love** does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **Love** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **Love** never ends.

Jesus himself said, “Greater **love** has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

But I think the best thing that the Bible says about love is “... God is love” (1 John 4:8b). Because if God is love, then we can replace love with God’s name in 1 Corinthians 13. **God** is patient and kind; **God** does not envy or boast; he is not arrogant or rude. He does not insist on his own way; he is not irritable or resentful; he does not rejoice at wrongdoing,

but rejoices with the truth. God bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. God never ends.

Can you say that you are living like this?