

## The Greatest of These...

There are many wonderful things in our world, but we often fail to see and experience them because the worries of life block our vision. God knows how He put this world together and He knows how He put our hearts together. When we lose sight of those two things, life gets tough and it can do so very quickly.

Every single thing we really want in life falls under one of nine categories listed in Ephesians 5:22, 23 – “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” In daily life, in our marriages, our families, and every other worthwhile endeavor, those nine items lie at the heart of everything else we seek.

Notice that the list starts with “love.” It’s not surprising, that is the hope of the human heart. As God’s word says in 1 Corinthians 13, no matter what we may have or do, if we have not love, it profits us nothing!

Faith is critical, without it, we cannot please God, (Hebrews 11:6). Hope is vital, without it disappointment will rule our lives, (“hope does not disappoint,” Romans 5:5, NASB).

Paul mentions faith, hope and love at the end of 1 Corinthians 13 and He teaches us, “the greatest of these is love.” Why? Because love is the greatest motivator in our existence. Love changes us. Love guides us. Love creates self-discipline by which we keep ourselves straight! Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” John 14:15.

In the next few weeks we will dig deep into God’s word to mine the riches of His truths on this precious subject of love – love of God, love of others, and a biblical view of love of self. (Yes, that’s in the Book!)

Let us open our hearts and minds to His truths, His love, and His plan for our lives!

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