

THE WAY OF LOVE

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude.

It does not demand its own way.

It is not irritable,

and it keeps no record of being wronged.

*It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever
the truth wins out.*

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

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

REFLECTION

Putting others before ourselves and seeing to their needs first is at the heart of Christian teaching. Love in action is the epitome of the Christian way. Jesus exemplified His sacrificial love when He chose to die for our sins in obedience to the Father's plan to save all humanity from the ravages of sin and death. The verses about love are a depiction of divine love. Human love will always fall short but this should not stop us from choosing to be loving towards others as a witness to the love and life of God working in and through us.

The Corinthian church that Paul wrote these verses to was a richly endowed and anointed church whose members were talented in spiritual gifting. But the Corinthian church were also a church motivated by selfish ambition and this was gradually tearing apart the body of Christ because of individualism and interpersonal conflict. The corporate togetherness within the church sadly lacked the love that binds and the love that moves this community to act and live for each other. While it is true that the exercise of spiritual gifts were impactful in the Body of Christ, they amounted to nothing without the practice of love. Love is the greatest and most valuable spiritual gifting in the eyes of God.

What should this love that binds and that motivates the church community to act and live for each other look like? What would happen if every member of the church used their spiritual gifting to love? What we would see is a predisposition towards seeking the highest good for the other. We would see members bearing with each other's differences and faults in spirit of forgiveness, ready to admit own wrongs, able to applaud others success, seek to help the downtrodden, and able to go the extra mile in humility. How far will you go so as to live a life of love? Will you model after Jesus who has never stopped loving us to the point of His own death for our sake?

PRAYER

Father God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart or our neighbours as we love ourselves. Forgive us we pray. We choose the way of love. Please grant us the strength and the power to love. Help us go the extra mile to love others just as You have loved us. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for loving church communities inspired to love each other as Christ loved us. Thank God for churches that preach and teach love. Pray for churches to exemplify the love of God to the people around them. Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to prevail in the various church communities. Ask for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control to propagate in Small Groups, in fellowship groups and in the congregations. Ask for the love that binds all together in unity of the Spirit of God.
- Thank God for anointed and empowered churches. Thank God for powerful spiritual gifts like prophecy, tongues, preaching and teaching. Pray for spiritual gifts to be conducted in love and for the common good of the community. Pray for such spiritual gifts to bear lasting fruit. Pray for evangelists, church school teachers, prayer intercessors, missionaries in the church to be filled to overflowing with the love of God.
- Pray for loving families, loving marriages, and loving parent and child relationships. Pray for the lonely to experience the love of God. Pray for the orphans and widows, single parents and those who struggle alone in life to know and taste the love of God. Pray for those who have experienced hurts in the past and are unable to forgive or held down by anger and fear. Pray for God's love to minister to them, bringing release and freedom to love again.

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and
Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Mark 12:30-31

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly
contact the pastoral care team via:***

Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg

Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012