



## IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

40 Days of Love  
Rick Warren

"Let love be your greatest aim." 1 Corinthians 14:1 (TLB)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second command is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' There are no commands more important than these." Mark 12:30-31 (NCV)

"Do everything with love." 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NLT)

### THE BASICS OF LOVE

• **WE LOVE BECAUSE** \_\_\_\_\_

"Love comes from God . . . for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8 (NLT)

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

"We know and rely on the love God has for us." 1 John 4:16 (NIV)

• **LOVE IS A** \_\_\_\_\_ **AND A** \_\_\_\_\_

"You can make this choice by loving the LORD . . . and committing yourself firmly to him." Deuteronomy 30:20 (NLT)

• **LOVE IS** \_\_\_\_\_

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."  
1 John 3:18 (NIV)

• **LOVE IS** \_\_\_\_\_

"Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know him better." 1 John 4:7 (TLB)

"Practice these things and devote yourself to them, in order that your progress may be seen by all." 1 Timothy 4:15 (GNT)

• **LOVE IS** \_\_\_\_\_

"Keep on to loving each other as brothers and sisters." Hebrews 13:1 (NLT)

"If you only love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" Luke 6:32 (NIV)

"Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it." 2 Corinthians 13:5 (MSG)

### 40 Days of Love Pre-Test ASSESSING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Parents _____	1—3—5—7—9 Poor Great
Marriage Prospects (If you'd like to marry)	1—3—5—7—9 Poor Great
Spouse _____	1—3—5—7—9 Poor Great
Relative _____	1—3—5—7—9 Poor Great
Coworkers _____	1—3—5—7—9 Poor Great
Neighbors _____	1—3—5—7—9 Poor Great
Different/Difficult _____	1—3—5—7—9 Poor Great
Children _____	1—3—5—7—9 Poor Great

Jesus: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if [you] have love one to another." John 13:35 (KJV)

### HOW TO BECOME GREAT AT RELATIONSHIPS

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

"This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more, and that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love." Philippians 1:9 (NCV)

## LOVE MATTERS MOST

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“Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:36-39 (TLB)

### THREE LAWS OF LOVE

#### 1. THE BEST USE OF LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

Why?

• \_\_\_\_\_  
“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”  
1 John 4:8 (NIV)

“If we say we love God, but hate others, we are liars. For we cannot love God, whom we have not seen, if we do not love others, whom we have seen.”  
1 John 4:20 (GNT)

• \_\_\_\_\_  
“Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.” Colossians 3:14 (CEV)

• \_\_\_\_\_  
“Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)

“God wiped out the charges that were against us for disobeying the Law . . . He took them away and nailed them to the cross.” Colossians 2:14 (CEV)

• \_\_\_\_\_  
“Three things will continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NCV)

“No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.”  
1 Corinthians 13:3 (MSG)

#### 2. THE BEST EXPRESSION OF LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

“We must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words.”  
1 John 3:18 (GW)

“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”  
Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

“Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us.” Ephesians 5:2 (NLT)

#### 3. THE BEST TIME TO LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

“Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone.”  
Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

“Use every chance you have for doing good.” Ephesians 5:16 (NCV)

“Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.”  
Proverbs 3:27-28 (GNT)

“Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [Make it your aim, your great quest].” 1 Corinthians 14:1 (AMPC)

### Homework

#### Next Steps

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## LOVE LETS IT GO

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"Love is not . . . rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged." 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NLT)

### 4 MARKS OF REAL LOVE

#### LOVE IS NOT RUDE. SO . . .

1. Answering before listening is both stupid and rude. Proverbs 18:13 (MSG)  
  
"Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ." Ephesians 4:31-32 (CEV)  
  
"A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is." Proverbs 16:21 (GNT)

#### LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY. SO . . .

2. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form. Philippians 2:5-7 (NLT)  
  
"Believers shouldn't curse anyone or be quarrelsome, but they should be gentle and show courtesy to everyone." Titus 3:2 (GW)  
  
"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31 (NIV)

#### LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE. SO . . .

### 3. BE GENTLE, NOT JUDGEMENTAL

"Brothers and sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again. But be careful, because you might be tempted to sin, too." Galatians 6:1 (NCV)

"Each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another." Romans 14:12-13 (NIV)

"Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit."  
Proverbs 15:4 (NLT)

"If your boss is angry at you, don't quit! A quiet spirit can overcome even great mistakes." Ecclesiastes 10:4 (NLT)

#### LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS. SO . . .

4. Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him [drop the issue, let it go], so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions and wrongdoings [against Him and others]. Mark 11:25 (AMP)  
  
"Hate stirs up trouble, but love forgives all offenses." Proverbs 10:12 (GNT)  
  
"When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it."  
Proverbs 19:11 (GNT)  
  
"You are only hurting yourself with your anger." Job 18:4 (GNT)

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## LOVE IS NOT EASILY ANGERED

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"Love is . . . not easily angered." 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV)

### HOW DO YOU TAME YOUR TEMPER?

#### 1. RESOLVE \_\_\_\_\_

"A fool always loses his temper, But a wise person holds it back."  
Proverbs 29:11 (NASB)

#### 2. REMEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

"A hot-tempered man . . . gets into all kinds of trouble." Proverbs 29:22 (TLB)

"Hot tempers cause arguments." Proverbs 15:18 (GNT)

"Anger causes mistakes." Proverbs 14:29 (TLB)

"People with hot tempers do foolish things." Proverbs 14:17 (GNT)

"The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left." Proverbs 11:29 (TLB)

#### 3. REFLECT \_\_\_\_\_

"Stupid people express their anger openly, but sensible people are patient and hold it back." Proverbs 29:11 (GNT)

"A person's wisdom yields patience." Proverbs 19:11 (NIV)

#### ASK 3 QUESTIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

"Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say."  
Psalm 141:3 (NCV)

"Drinking too much makes you loud and foolish. It's stupid to get drunk."  
Proverbs 20:1 (GNT)

#### 4. RELEASE \_\_\_\_\_

"If you become angry, do not let your anger lead you into sin."  
Ephesians 4:26 (GNT)

"A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up." Proverbs 15:1 (GNT)

#### 5. RE-PATTERN \_\_\_\_\_

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." Romans 12:2 (NLT)

"Keep away from angry, short-tempered men, lest you learn to be like them and endanger your soul." Proverbs 22:24 (TLB)

#### 6. RELY \_\_\_\_\_

"patience and encouragement that come from God allow you to live in harmony with each other the way Christ Jesus wants." Romans 15:5 (NCV)

"The fruit of the Spirit is . . . patience." Galatians 5:22 (NLT)

"Whatever is in your heart determines what you say." Matthew 12:34 (NLT)

"I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that's God-willed, not self-willed."  
Ezekiel 36:26 (MSG)

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## THE SECRETS OF LASTING LOVE

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God: *"I will show you my love forever. So says the Lord who saves you."*  
Isaiah 54:8 (GNT)

*"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you."*  
John 15:12 (NLT)

*"Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)*

### 1. LASTING LOVE

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*"Love never stops being patient." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)*

*"puts up with anything." (MSG)*

*"patiently accepts all things." (NCV)*

*"is always ready to make allowances." (NJB)*

*"Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)*

### 2. LASTING LOVE

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*"Love . . . never stops believing." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)*

*"always trusts." (NIV)*

*"never loses faith." (NLT)*

*"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*  
Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

### 3. LASTING LOVE

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*"Love . . . never stops hoping." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)*

*"always expects the best." (TLB)*

*"Always looks for the best." (MSG)*

### 4. LASTING LOVE

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*"Love . . . never gives up." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)*

*"endures through every circumstance." (NLT)*

*"always perseveres." (NIV)*

*"never looks back, but keeps going to the end." (MSG)*

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