

February 21, 2016

“LOVE ACTUALLY”

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

We were not made to live disconnected, isolated lives. We were made to be in relationship with one another. We were designed for love.

Isolation affects more people today than it ever has before.

The absence of love _____ a great deal of good.

People need to know they're loved if they're ever going to get better.

Love ill-defined leads to a great deal of _____.

We often mistake need for love.

If you're looking for someone to fill the empty void in your life, to take away your loneliness and unhappiness and misery -- you need to understand that they will never be able to do it.

You're not obliged to set yourself on fire in order to keep somebody else warm.

Five ways to be more loving toward others.

1. Treat others as _____.

Among equals, the relationship is one of give and take, of mutual respect.

2. Bend without _____.

When you're in a relationship with someone else -- friendship, family, marriage, ministry -- you'll need to come to grips with the fact that you will have to forgive them more than once.

The key to a mature, loving relationship is having the wisdom to know how far to bend, without making yourself snap in two.

Don't set yourself on fire to keep someone else warm, but do share your coat with them.

3. Let it go of the _____. Ref: Colossians 3:13

4. Celebrate all that is _____.

5. Never _____ up.

Love never quits. And here's the thing that we must understand: love cannot endure forever when the boundaries of a relationship are off kilter.

We need to love and be loved, but we must understand that this love doesn't come from a position of neediness and weakness. It comes from a position of strength.