



February 8, 2019

Love Makes the Difference

These three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

-- I Corinthians 13:13

As we look to First Corinthians 13 "The Love Chapter" this Sunday in the message, and as we celebrate Valentine's Day in the coming week, I wanted to share words by Gary Chapman from his book, *The 5 Love Languages*.

"I am significant. Life has meaning. There is a higher purpose. I want to believe it, but I may not feel significant until someone expresses love to me. When my spouse or partner lovingly invests time, energy and effort in me, I believe that I am significant. Without love, I may spend a lifetime in search of significance, self-worth, and security. When I experience love, it influences all of those needs positively. I am now freed to develop my potential. I am more secure in my self-worth and can now turn my efforts outward instead of being obsessed with my own needs. True love always liberates.

In the context of relationships, if we do not feel loved, our differences are magnified. We come to view each other as a threat to our happiness. We fight for self-worth and significance, and our relationship becomes a battlefield rather than a haven.

Love is not the answer to everything, but it creates a climate of security in which we can seek answers to those things that bother us. In the security of love, we can discuss differences without condemnation. Conflicts can be resolved. Two people who are different can learn to live together in harmony. We discover how to bring out the best in each other. Those are the rewards of love."

In Christ's grace,

Pastor Deb