

February 2025

What is Biblical Love?

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul writes beautifully about the power and significance of love, and he reminds us that it is the greatest gift we can offer. This chapter, often referred to as the "Love Chapter," reveals not only the nature of love but also its incomparable value, emphasizing that love surpasses all other gifts and virtues. As a ministry, we are reminded of the importance of embodying this love in all that we do, for love truly is the heart of our mission. Love for God, love for others, and the love God has for us.

Paul writes, "*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*" (1 Corinthians 13:13). In a world that is often focused on material success, status, or accomplishments, love stands as the ultimate expression of God's heart for humanity. This love isn't just about affection or sentiment; it's a sacrificial, unconditional love that gives without expecting anything in return.

The Women's Refuge seeks to reflect the love of God through our services, outreach, and programs. We strive to serve others with compassion, patience, and kindness, reaching out to those who are hurting, lonely, or lost. Whether through biblical counseling or supporting individuals in their faith journey, we know that the most powerful tool we can offer is the love of Christ. This love brings healing, hope, and restoration to broken hearts and weary souls.

But love doesn't always come easily. In the same chapter, Paul describes love as being patient, kind, and free from envy, pride, and anger. This love requires us to put others first and to demonstrate humility and grace in every interaction. When we choose to love as Christ loved us, we are not just fulfilling a commandment; we are becoming the hands and feet of Jesus to a world in desperate need of His love.

As we enter our 28th year, we are reminded of the profound truth in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which teaches us that love "*always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*" This is the kind of love we aim to offer—one that doesn't give up, one that believes the best, and one that always seeks to uplift others. It's through this love that lives are transformed, and hearts are healed.

In all that we do, we hold on to the truth that love is indeed the greatest gift, and we are privileged to share it with others as we continue to serve God's purpose. Let us all be a reflection of His love, spreading hope and light in a world that so desperately needs it. Be encouraged, love never fails.



PR Assistant Allison Hufford

Prayer from the Executive Director



Diane Ludwig Executive Director

Lord God, I can hardly understand how Your love for me has had no limits since time began and is given freely for every creature under heaven. Father, I know You created love and all love flows from You. May Your Spirit open my understanding to the wondrous realization that You are love itself. Father, help me to tear down the boundaries I put between myself and others.

Let Your love flow through me so I can glorify You to all those I encounter. From the down and out to the those in authority as well as those who are hard to love, may Your love be poured out to others in my life. In the powerful name of Jesus, I pray, amen.

(Inspired by a prayer from In Touch Min*istries.)*

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Community Connection



Pictured: Women's Refuge of Vero Beach We extend thanks to the anonymous donor of our new flag.



We would like to thank Publix Charities for donating to our Healthy Living Food Program for our live-in program. Our resident's take turns preparing the meals for the house and dine family-style with meaningful conversations most every night.

Pictured: Allie and Judy



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Structure brings Stability

"I came to the Refuge feeling depleted, feeling like my life is out of control, knowing that I needed to get closer to God, but being unable to take the next step. The Refuge has been wonderful at helping me make those steps. While I've been here, I've had structure including prayers several times a day. Praying for each other and meeting with counselors, I've been able to deal with my struggles. I have really appreciated the structure of this place and I'm ready to go home now to my five children and implement the things I've learned. It's been a blessing to be here."



Julia



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