

## Introduction

- I am so jacked up this am, and no I'm not all hopped up on Mtn. Dew
- I love Easter
  - Christmas= Commercialization and busyness of the season, tacky movies, buying presents etc.
  - But Easter, somehow has avoided all of that and for the most part maintained its religious purity
  - And let's not forget JELLY BEANS
- Easter in one word?
  - Resurrection
  - Hope
  - Power
  - Death
- Easter= Love

John 3:16-17 16"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- So, while we may think of many things when we think of Easter I want us to Focus on LOVE this am

## 1 Corinthians 13

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- I have learned that Love is the foundation of all the God does
  - God desires a relationship with us
  - Since the beginning of the year we have talked about God's desire to have a personal relationship with us= Series Promised Land, and now His Story
  - It's His love that sustains humanity

- Paul gives us a great definition of Love here in 1 Corinthians 13 that gives us a pattern for the Love that is Easter
  1. Patient and kind
    - Patience
      - I have been accused (wrongly I might add) of not being patient
      - Patience of the Lord with his people in the Bible
      - Patient in His plan of Jesus
    - Kind
      - Rom. 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
      - Talk about kindness, we didn't deserve it (Grace and Mercy)
  2. does not envy or boast
    - Jesus was the epitamy of humbleness
  3. not arrogant or rude
    - Arrogant
      - Jesus never was
      - He could have been
      - Wore a t-shirt that said I'm the Son of God
      - Raised folks from the dead
      - Write a book
    - Rude
      - Amazing how he talked to the Pharisees
      -
  4. does not insist on its own way
    - At any point could have called angels down to get him off the cross
    - The high priest and scribes, said he saved others let him save himself
    - Jesus prayed "Not my will, but thine" in the garden
    - It has been said that it wasn't the nails that held Jesus on the Cross, but love- His love for us= Powerful
  5. not irritable or resentful
    - Hard for us as humans to do
    - Forgive them Father for they know not what they do
    -
  6. does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth
    - I am the way the truth and the life
  7. bears all things
    - Cross
    - Pain that he had to endure
    - All things, that means a lot- mistakes, pain, etc.
  8. hopes all things
    - Hope of the Resurrection

- Separates Christianity from other religions

9. endures all things

- Cross
- Ridicule
- Death, My view of death and how I think about it differently
- John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

10. Love never fails

- Everything else will "pass away" and "fail"
- Love never fails
- Agape Love= Unconditional love

- In closing, let me leave you with a thought from the great preacher, George Buttrick. Buttrick said:

"One item about the resurrection of Jesus  
has sometimes been overlooked;  
he showed himself after death  
only to those who loved him."

Jesus loves you. Love him—so that you might see him clearly. Love him—so that you might experience his resurrection power.