

Intro

QUIZ

Love matters — if we're not loving others, we're just making noise!

Love impacts — it impacts you and everyone around you!

Love lasts — so keep everything in perspective!

TODAY

Love grows — *so do everything you can to cultivate it!*

PRAY!

ME/WE

I want to change the world!

My journey ...

- + Call (passion)
- + Passion lost
- + Passion regained ("I want to change the world! I want to be a change agent for God!" @ Tomlin concert)

I must become a gardener!

- + My Father is the gardener
- + Pray for more workers for the harvest
- + Jesus talked about planting seeds

Isn't that why we're here?

It all starts with loving people ...

Love Grows

Got Love? :: 05.20.2007

Application

Love grows — *so do everything you can to cultivate it!*

Cultivate ...

- + "to foster the growth of"
- + "make friends with"

QUESTIONS ...

1. Who's cultivating you?
2. Who are you cultivating?

Plant People

"If you're planting for a year, plant grain; if you're planting for a decade, plant trees; if you're planting for a century, plant people." (Chinese proverb)

Daily Development

Marriage is both a "done deal" and a "daily development."

Be patient!

"You will always harvest what you plant. [...] So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. (Gal 6)

Vision-casting ...

If we all become good gardeners, cultivating our love, growing relationships with the people around us, imagine what kind of beautiful garden will create here in this community!

Text

1 Corinthians 13 (MSG)

MOTIVES ...

1 If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. 2 If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. 3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

PRETTY INTENSE LIST ...

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

8-10 Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

11 When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good. 12 We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

13 But for right now, until that completeness, **we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation:** Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, **love extravagantly.** And the best of the three is love.