

Love Moves Downward

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Glitter floats, but true **gold** sinks.

Success, power, and prestige seek to rise to the top, but Love moves downward.

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” —Romans 5:5

God **sent** His son, from heaven to earth.

God’s Love is **poured** out, descends

God’s Word “as the rain and the snow” **comes down** from heaven. (Isaiah 55:10)

Veil in temple was torn **top** to bottom.

Love **moves** downward

“But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.” —1 Corinthians 12:31

“DO NOTs” of Bible—8 of the Ten Commandments are **negative**.

8 begin with the Hebrew word **oal**

1. No other gods
2. No graven images, idols
3. No taking of the Lord’s name in vain
 4. Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.
 5. Honor Father and Mother
6. No Murdering
7. No Committing adultery
8. No Stealing
9. No Lying (bearing false testimony)
10. No Coveting.

These are things that **destroy** life and community.

1. Not **Boastful**

Positive—lift up others. Speak to **show** the good in others.

Love is not how many friends you have,
but how many people consider you their **friend**.

2. Not **Proud**.

Example: **Absalom**

²⁵In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him. ²⁶Whenever he cut the hair of his head—he used to cut his hair from time to time when it became too heavy for him—he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels by the royal standard. —2 Samuel 14:25-26

Positive—celebrate the good in others.

Quiet about yourself, **puffed up** about others.

3. Not **Rude**.

KJV “does not behave itself **unseemingly**”

Not rude comes close to respect.

Love **respects**.

Love **honors**.

“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

—Ephesians 5:33

4. Not **Self-seeking**.

—looking out for **number 1**.

—to seek, require, crave, or **demand** something from someone

“Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. 6 Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel.”

—2 Samuel 15:5-6

Not self-seeking, side of love,

Gives **self** for others.

Husbands, love your wives as **Christ** loved the Church.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

—Ephesians 5:25

We who have received God’s Love say:

I have The **Number 1**,

He **looks** after me,

I seek to **bless** others.

Conclusion: **Love moves downward.**

Love is not **self-effacing** or **self-hatred**.

Out of our love for the Lord, His love for us, and our love for and acceptance of ourselves, we can seek the good in and for others.

I cannot stoop to be a servant, until I have **stood** on the Mount of Transfiguration and realized I am a **child** of God.

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. —John 13:3-5

Memory Verse:

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