

DAY 25 — LOVE

30 Days of Repentance · Heart Preparation | Make Room for God's Heart

Love is not an accessory to the Christian life. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul places love above remarkable gifts, spiritual insight, extraordinary faith, and even costly sacrifice. None of those things, however impressive, can substitute for the heart from which they come. God is not merely interested in what we accomplish in His name; He cares about how we treat the people in front of us.

Paul then brings love out of the abstract and into everyday behavior. Patience, kindness, humility, truthfulness, and perseverance make love visible. This description invites us to examine more than our intentions. We can sincerely believe we love someone while still noticing places where our reactions, pride, resentment, or desire to be right interfere with loving them well.

Jesus gives love a recognizable standard: “As I have loved you” (John 13:34). His love was not limited to those who understood Him, agreed with Him, or made things easy. He loved through service, truth, compassion, and sacrifice. He did not confuse love with approving everything people did. Love can be honest about what is wrong while remaining committed to what is good.

First John reminds us that this kind of love begins with God. We are not being asked to manufacture perfect love through sheer effort. God loved first. As we receive His love and allow it to reshape us, we become better able to extend it to others. Love is both evidence of His work within us and a place where we continually need His help.

Romans 12 calls that love sincere. Not performed for recognition. Not offered only when convenient. Sincere love honors others and clings to what is good. It asks us to consider whether the love we profess is reflected in the way we listen, respond, forgive, speak truth, and make room for other people.

Today's invitation is not to condemn yourself for every moment you have fallen short. It is to let God reveal where love has become guarded, impatient, performative, or conditional—and where His love is already producing real growth. Repentance makes room for love that is not simply spoken, but lived.

For reflection

- *Where do my actions reflect the love I say I have?*
- *Where might God be inviting me to practice greater patience, sincerity, humility, or truth?*
- *Am I trying to love from my own strength, or allowing His love to shape mine?*