



Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 1 ~ Love Defined

In this lesson we will learn that **God wants every person to be treated with honor and respect**, including in their own home. We will learn what it means to love and to be loved. Sadly, domestic abuse is an epidemic in the world. According to the CDC, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in the USA have experienced severe physical abuse from an intimate partner.¹ (Statistics from hospitals and police departments also confirm the epidemic.)

1. What do you think is God's answer to the problem of domestic abuse?
 2. Read Matthew 22:34-40. What are the two most important commandments?
 3. Read 1 John 4:7-8. Do we really love God if we don't love others?
(How we treat each person in our lives reveals whether we truly love God.)
 4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 to see what God's love looks like.
Guess which Greek word is used for the word love:

What's an example of God's sacrificial love?

5. What's the point made in verses 1-3?
 6. Use various Bible translations to describe Paul's definition of agape love and explain ways to put each description into action.

<u>Word:</u>	<u>Other words:</u>	<u>Ways to practice it:</u>
v4) Patient		
v4) Kind		
v4) Not jealous		
v4) Not proud		
v4) Not arrogant		
v5) Doesn't act unbecomingly		
v5) Doesn't seek its own		

¹ National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011. MMWR 2014; 63(SS-8): 1-18

<u>Word:</u>	<u>Other words:</u>	<u>Ways to practice it:</u>
v5) Not easily provoked		
v5) Doesn't count wrongs		
v6) Doesn't delight in unrighteousness		
v6) Delights in the truth		
v7) Bears all things		
v7) Believes all things		
v7) Hopes all things		
v7) Endures all things		
v8) Love never fails		

7. Commit (for at least one week) to praying over one of the concepts listed above (your biggest challenge). Ask God to replace the negative quality: _____ with the positive quality: _____.
8. Examine all the relationships in your home or in your family. Do they exemplify God's love? Is each person treated with consistent kindness? If not, what can you do?
9. What one thing will you do this week to practice the attributes of love and improve your relationships?

Verse 13 - Only faith, hope, and love will last --- and the greatest of these three is: _____.
So maybe we should learn most about (*and try the hardest to be*) LOVE.



Our church's Domestic Kindness Action Team (DKAT):

- Equips the whole church with DK instruction in Godly living and
- Connects the oppressed and the repentant controllers to expert help.

If you can be anything, Choose to Be Kind