



# RELATIONAL VALUES

## Love

The D-Cycle is a curriculum containing content designed to establish the scriptural foundations of the faith in the life of a believer.

### VISION FOR LOVE

Love in many ways has lost its meaning in Western Culture. When asked to define love, many define it circularly, stating “Love is Love” — as if it can be defined without reference to anything else.

David Bennett in his book, *A War of Loves*, says, “Love is love doesn’t mean that much semantically, and it provides no definition of what love actually is. Nor can it differentiate between the various *kinds* of human love and desire. Is it really all that simple? No! Love has many commonalities, but part of what makes the human experience so rich is the multiplicity of loves that we experience. A mother’s love is not a friend’s love. A friend’s faithfulness and a total stranger’s act of compassion are both touching and wonderful. But they are not the same — cannot be, should not be. Love, I have come to learn, is not God. Flip that. God *is* love. The God revealed in Jesus Christ is the definition of love. This difference changes everything. We are caught up in arms greater than our own, feeling the possibility of being accepted not by our mirror but *by our maker.*”

Love is the foundation of all other relational values: humility, honor, thankfulness, authentic connection, and joyful giving. Without love, these values cannot be properly expressed.

### Key Definitions

- **Love:** willing the good or benefit of another.

## HEAD

### Summary of Points

1. **Love is the foundation everything rests upon.**

If we have all the Kingdom Power and if we sacrifice everything we have for Jesus — including dying for Jesus, but don’t have love — we gain nothing.

2. **The love (*agape*) we are called to in Scripture is self-giving and sacrificial.**

Jesus says the greatest form of love is to lay your life down for others (John 15:13).

3. **There are different kinds of love.**

In Greek, there are 4 words for love

- a. ***agape*** — self-giving love
- b. ***eros*** — romantic or sexual love (erotic) — not used in the New Testament

- c. **philia** – friendship and comradery
- d. **storge** – familial love (like love between a brother and sister) – not explicitly used in the New Testament but its root word is used a couple times

We must be careful to not just use the Greek or Hebrew word to determine the context, but instead use the context to determine the meaning of the word. The radical nature of 1 Corinthians 13 is its description of agape.

Ex: Luke 6:32 use of agape - If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love (agape) those who love (agape) them. - Sinners are clearly not giving themselves fully in love for one another.

## Lifegroup Scriptures

# The Way of Love

## 1 Corinthians 13-14:1

### A New Commandment

John 13:34-35

### The Great Commandment

Matthew 22:34-40

Mark 12:28-34

Luke 10:25-37

## D-Group Scriptures

### Progression of Love

Exodus 34:6-7

1 John 4:7-21

### No Greater Love

John 15:10-17

### Fulfillment of God's Law

Galatians 5:13-14

### Walk in Love

Ephesians 5:1-2

## Discussion Methods

Below are two suggested methods for discussing Scripture.

Traditional DBS New Testament Letters	Inductive Bible Study Gospels, Acts, Old Testament Accounts
1. What does this say about God?	1. Observation – What happened?
2. What does this say about me/people?	2. Interpretation – What does it mean?
3. What is my obedient response?	3. Application – How can I obey?

# HEART

## Questions

1. Describe a moment where you felt loved (by a family member, friend, or even by God)
2. Who have you loved well? Who have you not loved well?
3. What "spiritual" things have you prioritized over love?
4. Look at the following list of "Love is / Love is not" statements from 1 Corinthians 13. Which of these qualities do you think you can grow in?
  - a. Love is patient
  - b. Love is kind
  - c. Love does not envy / is not jealous (NLT) / is not envious (NET)
  - d. Love is not boastful / does not boast (ESV) / does not brag (NET)
  - e. Love is not arrogant / is not proud (NIV) / is not puffed up (NET)
  - f. Love is not rude / does not dishonor others (NIV)
  - g. Love is not self-seeking / does not insist on its own way (ESV) / demand its own way (NLT) / is not self-serving (NET)
  - h. Love is not irritable / not easily angered (NIV)
  - i. Love does not keep a record of wrongs / is not resentful (ESV)
  - j. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness / does not rejoice at wrongdoing (ESV) / does not delight in evil (NIV) / does not rejoice about injustice (NLT) / is not glad about injustice (NET)
  - k. Love rejoices in the truth / rejoices with the truth (ESV) / rejoices whenever the truth wins out (NLT)
  - l. Love bears all things / always protects (NIV) / never gives up (NLT)
  - m. Love believes all things / always trusts (NIV) / never loses faith (NLT)
  - n. Love hopes all things / always hopes (NIV) / is always hopeful (NLT)
  - o. Love endures all things / always perseveres (NIV) / endures through every circumstance (NLT)

*Lifegroup content ends here*

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# HANDS

## Discipleship Actions

1. This week, take 5 minutes every day to memorize 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.
2. Identify which part of 1 Corinthians 13 above you want to grow in. Proactively embody that value this week.  
Give concrete examples of what that looks like. Prepare to share next week how it went.