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Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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## The Priority, Persistence and Personification of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

### Central Passage

*1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV) — 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

**Central Thought:** Christ-like love in our words and deeds is the only thing that preserves us now and prepares us for eternity.

#### ❖ The Priority of Love (vs.1-3)

○ Words without love are annoying.

○ Knowledge without love is deceptive.

*1 Corinthians 8:1-3 (ESV) — 1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.*

○ Sacrifice without love is useless.

*1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV) — 22 And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.*

*Micah 6:8 (ESV) — 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

#### ❖ The Persistence of Love (vs.4-13)

○ True love is tender and tenacious.

*2 Peter 3:8-9 (ESV) — 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

○ True love is enlightening and eternal.

#### ❖ The Personification of Love

○ The love of God is personified in Jesus.

*John 13:1 (NLT) — 1 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.*

*Colossians 1:15-20 (NLT) — 15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation... 19 For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, 20 and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*