

The Way of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Refresh Series #5 – Refresh your relationships
October 18, 2009, Jeff Edwards, Northwest Community Church

Review “Refresh”: Messages that will refresh your life right where you need it.

Who is to blame?

Jn 9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

Q/ How can I refresh my relationships?

Refreshing ideas: **Be a friend/partner...**

1. As **humble** as Jesus.

Jn 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

2. **Faithful** and forgiving like God.

Ex 34:5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, ...⁶ “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.”

3. **Choosing love from God, not reactions from my Gut.**

^{1Jn 4:7} Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. ... ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar.

“the average life span of a romantic obsession is two years” - Dr. Dorothy Tennov

4. Practicing the **Way** of love.

^{1Co 12:31} And now I will show you the most excellent way. ... ^{13:13} ...faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. ^{14:1} Follow the way of love...

^{1Co 13:4} Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.

A/ Pursue **God’s love over** all my relationships.

*^{SS 2:4} He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. ⁵ Strengthen me with raisins, **refresh** me with apples, for I am faint with love.*