**Without Love, Nothing Else Matters**

**God is Love**

**God in His very essence is Love.**

**God Loved His people before creation.**

**God displays His Love at a moment in time.**

**God continues to Love His people –Present & Future**

**Do you belong to the particular group of people uniquely loved by God?**

**Apart from the Grace of God, it is impossible for you to minister in a selfless way!**

**The absolute necessity of Christian love.** 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

* Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7
* Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10
* How are you serving others?
* When Christian love acts in a selfless way for the greatest good of other people, the Church can be utterly and eternally transformational!

**The glorious characteristics of Christian love .** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

**LOVE ACTS…**

* If it is true that imitation is the most serious form of flattery, then you ascribe ultimate praise today by loving each other as He has loved you.

**The enduring nature of Christian love.** 1 Corinthinans 13:8-13

*Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

* It is the gospel that formed Paul’s understanding of LOVE, what forms your understanding of love?

*Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2*

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20*

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her…*

*Ephesians 5:25*