The Power of Love

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (2-15-09)

Text: **I Corinthians 13**

Introduction: Anybody remember the 80's pop songs "Love Hurts" or "Love Stinks?" How about "The Power of Love?" Why is love so painful but also so powerful? "Pain is not good in itself. What is good in any painful experience is, for the sufferer, his submission to the will of God, and, for the spectators, the compassion aroused and the acts of mercy to which it leads." - C.S. Lewis *The Problem of Pain*

Discussion:

I.   *LOVE IS NECESSARY (vs.1-3)*
Love is necessary to use spiritual gifts properly.
Love is necessary to offer more appropriate sacrifices.
Love is necessary for our good works to have any value.
Love is necessary for our preaching and teaching to be effective.
Love is necessary for our knowledge not to be wasted.
Love is necessary for us to please God.

II. *LOVE IS GIVING (vs.4-7)*
Love suffers longs.
Love is kind.
Love rejoices in the truth.
Love bears all things.
Love believes all things.
Love hopes all things.
Love endures all things.

III. *LOVE IS REJECTING (vs.4-7)*
Love does not envy.
Love does not parade itself.
Love is not puffed up.
Love does not behave rudely.
Love does not seek its own.
Love is not provoked.
Love thinks no evil.
Love does not rejoice in iniquity.

IV. *LOVE IS MATURE (vs.8-11)*
Love never fails.
Love will outlast prophesies, tongues, and knowledge.
Love looks forward, never backward.
Love leads us away from child-like immaturity.
Love leads us on toward perfection.

V. *LOVE IS EVERLASTING (vs.12-13)*
Love will help us to see clearly.
Love will help us to see ourselves.
Love will help us to see others.
Love is to be compared to faith and hope.
Love is greatest human virtue.

Conclusion: We need Christian love to make a difference in the world we live in today. Have you learned to love your neighbor as yourself? Do you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Maybe its time you experienced the power of love. Come to your loving God. Rest in the arms of your loving Savior. Give in the loving power of the Holy Spirit. And make a difference by loving others.