

March 24, 2020

## Essential Love

1 Cor. 13:13, “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

In a classic statement, Paul tells the believers in Corinth that there is nothing greater than love. Nothing. Did you get that? Nothing. Love is the foundation for everything in God’s kingdom. Love is the bedrock that the foundation rests upon. I guess he’s trying to remind us that without love, we really have nothing of any value. He had also made a similar statement to the Colossian believers: Col. 3:14 - Above all, be full of love. This ties everything together perfectly.

This reminds me of something I read a while back. It was about “essential” oils. I was curious as to why they are called essential. I mean I have lived quite a long time without many of them. Well, this is what I found out and it is very enlightening. Essential oils means that it bears the name of the plant from which it is derived; for example, rose oil or peppermint oil. Such oils were called essential because they were thought to represent the very essence of odor and flavor. Then it hit me. This is what love is; it is the essential oil of God. Love represents everything about Him; everything about His very nature. The only way you can experience that love is to take it in; breathe it in; ingest it. God gives it freely and abundantly to everyone. You may recall that in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple, they offered up a fragrant offering on the altar of incense. This was a picture of the prayers being offered up to God. And, scripture calls them a fragrant offering.

When we love God and when we love people, we are offering up the most essential offering back to Him who first gave to us. Paul says it is the most essential thing. Above all else, we are to love.

Dear Lord, thank You for Your incredible love. It is the greatest thing I could ever know. I realize that when I received Jesus as my Savior, I received a love that will never leave, never diminish, never falter, and never fail. Thank You Lord! In Jesus Name, Amen