

**Speaker for Today**  
Thank you, Mario Marin

**“Love Never Fails”**

*“Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13*

**July Birthdays**

19 Sal Contino

**Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Website:**  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

**Preacher: Vacant**

**Church of Christ**  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

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*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.”*  
Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

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## What is Love?

By Andrew Beasley

Love, love, love, love, the Gospel in a word is love. The Gospel, that we take into the world, is rooted in love. The message of Christ is rooted in love. Who we are as Christians is rooted in love. You cannot separate God’s people from love as the two go hand in hand. When we fail to love as God loves us, we fail to be His people. Paul stated that we could do things like perform incredible miraculous gifts, but if we did so without love we were like a clanging cymbal or a resounding gong (1 Corinthians 13:1)

But what is love? More importantly, what is the love that Jesus speaks of as the greatest and the second greatest commands (Matthew 22:36-40). We might start by recognizing that it is not love as the world would define it which might better be described as lust. Biblical love falls into three categories in the Greek language. Agape love, which is a sacrificial love that desires what it best for the recipient of love. Phileo love, which is the kind of brotherly love we see shared between David and Jonathan. And storge love, which we might define as the love one feels for his or her family.

What is love? Whether it is sacrificial, brotherly, or familial it should encompass and embody all that we are and everything we do.

## Now What?

By Jared Green

For three years, Jesus' disciples had spent nearly every waking moment by his side. They had heard his teachings and seen his miracles, and anytime they had a question, the Son of God was there to answer (even if he did so in a confusing parable). That time, however, had to end because Jesus' purpose was not to live on this earth as a good teacher but to sacrifice himself on the cross as the world's Savior. That time had finally come, and Jesus told his disciples, "*Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come'*" (John 13:33). Based on the disciples' questions in the following verses, they were struggling to come to grips with Jesus' departure. Knowing their hearts, Jesus focused his last meal with them on comforting and preparing his disciples for their new reality.

**Jesus called them to serve one another in love.** In John 13, Jesus famously washed his disciples' feet. Due to dusty road condition and the lack of modern footwear, washing feet was a gross, menial task. Generally, a host would have a servant whose job it was to wash the guests' feet. However, to prepare his disciples for the days ahead, Jesus washed their feet to teach them the importance of loving one another through action. Later in the chapter, Jesus told them, "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another*" (13:34).

**Jesus comforted them with his promises.** Jesus told them, "*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me*" (14:1). Jesus calmed them by calling them to belief. For Jesus, belief is an unwavering trust in God's promises. Those specific promises were to prepare a heavenly dwelling place and one day return to take his disciples to that eternal abode (14:2-3).

**Jesus called them to bear fruit.** In John 15, Jesus called himself the "true vine" and each disciple a "branch" on the vine (v. 1-2). Then said, "*By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples*" (v. 8).

The fruit that Jesus likely had in mind was the outpouring of love and love's accompanying actions, given that both fruit (15:8) and love (13:34) would prove one's discipleship. Knowing the difficult path his disciples would face, Jesus reminded them that fruit-bearing would only be accomplished by abiding in him because, "*apart from me you can do nothing*" (15:5).

Like the disciples, we need both encouragement and comfort as we live in a world that is ultimately not our home. May we heed Jesus' teachings to serve one another in love, trust in God's promises, and bear fruit by abiding in Christ.

## Love is...

By Ron Thomas

Love is an action, less an emotion (though not necessarily unconnected). Love always seeks that which is best for the other person, even if the other person does not see it or want it. What is best for the other person can be drawn from two sources. This which originates in a person or that which originates in God. If the former, look and see where this has gotten us. We live in a society full of moral and emotional corruption. Those who criticize the latter fail to see what love truly is and refuse to see that the love of Gods is not the problem, only that people in their selfishness have corrupted God's love for their own ends.

Love is frequently seen as an emotion that allows the other person to be who they are, and while this may be an aspect of love, it is not love. Would you allow a person to be who they are if they are destructive to self, or others? Neither is love is an emotion that seeks to satisfy self in earthly pleasures, though it is frequently used in that context. That is nothing but hedonism, selfishness.

When we say, "I love you" - what is it we mean? Perhaps we may have difficulty giving clarity to this. With the Lord, there is no difficulty. What did He mean? "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*" (John 3:16, ESV).