

LOVE

THE HEART OF GOD'S PLAN

Love is Secure

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“Love is not **jealous** or **boastful** or **proud** or **rude**. It does not demand its **own way**.”
1 Corinthians 13:4b,5a (NLT)

BIG IDEA: These are all traits of insecure people. The cure: Resting securely in God's love for me.

God already loves me...

- **Lavishly**

“How **great is the love** the Father has **lavished** on us, that we should be called children of God!” *1 John 3:1a* (NIV)

- **Unconditionally**

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8* (NIV)

- **Unfailingly**

“I'm absolutely convinced that nothing — nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable — **absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love** because of the way that Jesus our Master has **embraced** us.” *Romans 8:38,39* (Message)

When I'm secure in God's love, I won't feel a need to...

1. _____ **others'** _____
...because I'm already lavishly loved!

“Love ... does not **envy**...” *1 Corinthians 13:4b* (NIV)

Greek root for “envy”: “to _____”; emotional boiling, seething or steaming

“...there is among you **envying**, and strife, and divisions...” *1 Corinthians 3:3a* (KJV)

“For where you have **envy** and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” *James 3:16* (NIV)

QUESTION: Do I find it difficult when someone has more than me?

2. _____ myself _____ **...because I'm already loved by God!**

"Love is not ...boastful or proud..." *1 Corinthians 13:4b* (NLT)

Greek root for "boast": "_____"

"...love is not puffed up..." *1 Corinthians 13:4b* (KJV)

"Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." *1 Corinthians 1:31b* (NIV)

QUESTION: Am I resting in God-esteem or trying to drum up self-esteem?

3. _____ others _____ **...because I see others as loved by God too!**

"Love... is not rude..." *1 Corinthians 13:4b* (NLT)

"Love does not behave gracelessly." *1 Corinthians 13:4b* (Barclay) See *1 Corinthians 11:17-22*

"...your meetings do more harm than good. ...It is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for as you eat, each of you goes ahead **without waiting for anybody else**. One remains hungry, another gets drunk... do you despise the church of God and **humiliate** those who have nothing?" *1 Corinthians 11:17-22*

"... we regard no one from a worldly point of view..." *2 Corinthians 5:16a* (NIV)

QUESTION: Am I rude to unbelieving people? To my loved ones?

4. _____ others _____ **...because my ambition is to help others find God's love!**

"Love... does not demand its own way." *1 Corinthians 13:5a* NLT

"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." *Matthew 20:28* (NIV)

QUESTION: Do I push others out of the way or make a way for them?

Bottom line:

I am _____ when I really rest in God's love for me!

LOVE PROJECTS



1. Bring food for Second Harvest. Let's break last year's record! **Bring in food starting October 25 through November 9**
2. Participate in a ShareFest project on Saturday, Oct. 25. **More info at www.santacruzfest.org**
3. Have your small group apply for a LOVE grant: **Apply**

online at www.tlclove.com

4. Do weekly acts of kindness and leave a LOVE calling card.
5. Write someone a "LOVE" card.

Preview Weekend: What Matters Most

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" *Matthew 22:37-39* (NIV)

Week 1: God's Love for You

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him." *1 John 4:16*

Week 2: Love is Patient

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." *1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

Week 3: Love is Kind

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

Week 4: Love is Secure

"Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long..." *Deuteronomy 33:12b*

Week 5: Love Forgives

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." *1 Peter 4:8*

Week 6: Telling God You Love Him

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans 8:38-39*

Week 7: What Matters Most

"Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." *1 Corinthians 13:6-8a*



"Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long..." *Deuteronomy 33:12b* (NIV)