

*Building Great Relationships*  
**Life's Greatest Aim**

**I. Introduction**

- A. Relationships determine your degree of happiness.
- B. Relationships determine your success.
- C. Relationships develop your character.
- D. My aim in life is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1. A "dominant life principle" is what you unconsciously refer to when you have decisions to make and you have multiple options.
- E. God says that our "dominant life principle" as followers of Jesus is to love.
  - 1. I Corinthians 14:1a (NAS)

**II. Why is love supposed to be my greatest aim in life?**

- A. We were created for community and connection.
  - 1. Genesis 2:18 (NAS)
  - 2. "Connection is why we are here!" (Brene Brown)
- B. Without love, all that I say is empty.
  - 1. I Corinthians 13:1 (NAS)
  - 2. Words, without love, are empty.
  - 3. People respond to loving words, but they resent unloving words.
- C. Without love, all that I know isn't enough.
  - 1. I Corinthians 13:2 (NAS)
  - 2. I Corinthians 8:1b (NAS)
  - 3. The world isn't looking for more knowledge, it's looking for love, and God is the Source of love!
- D. Without love, all that I believe is insufficient.
  - 1. I Corinthians 13:2b (NAS)
  - 2. The proof of your Christianity is love!
  - 3. John 13:34 (NAS)
- E. Without love, all that I give is insignificant.
  - 1. I Corinthians 13:3a (NAS)

2. Wrong motives for giving:

- a. Prestige
- b. Power
- c. Obligation
- d. Guilt

F. Without love, all that I sacrifice is inadequate.

- 1. I Corinthians 13:3b (NAS)
- 2. God is saying that relationships are more important than accomplishments.
- 3. Success without love is empty!

### III. What is love?

A. Love is an action.

- 1. Love is not only something you feel or say, it's something you do!
  - a. I John 3:18 (NAS)

B. Love is a choice.

- 1. A myth about love - - "Love is uncontrollable."
- 2. Love is doing the loving thing even when you don't feel like it!

C. Love is giving a person what they need, not what they deserve.

### IV. The Permanence of Love

A. I Corinthians 13:7-8a (NAS)

- 1. Every other "dominant life principle" - - besides love - - is temporary!
- 2. I Corinthians 13:13 (NAS)
- 3. Love is the only characteristic that will last for eternity!

B. John 13:34-35 (NAS)

- 1. If you're a follower of Jesus, learning to love is not an option!

C. How are we to love?

- 1. "...even as I have loved you...."
- 2. How many people know you're a Christian because of your loving lifestyle?

### V. Conclusion