

## **The Most Excellent Way- You Can't Fake it**

***I will show you the most excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:31***

***If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.***

***4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.***

***8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.***

***13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:1-12***

***16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16***

**When churches don't function as we should, we send and inaccurate picture of Christ to the world around us.**

***"God is love." 1 John 4:16***

**Agapē is never about what we receive, it is exclusively about what we to others.**

***16 For God so Agapēd the world that he gave his one and only Son. John 3:16***

**If we are not personally and genuinely humble, then we are not truly loving.**

**9 ...you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 1 Thessalonians 4:9**

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**Like any skill, Agapē must be practiced before it can become second nature to us.**

**The truth in your words will always be filtered through a person's trust in your love.**

***I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” Jonah 4:2-3***

***The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9***

**The whole point of grace is that we don't get what we deserve.**

**If your love is not selfless and self-sacrificing, then you are probably not practicing Biblical Agapē.**