

## Love is all you need?

What a great time we have had this morning, praising God and being present as Kev and Vi have renewed their wedding vows.

I've had this tune going through my head all week as I have been thinking about this morning.

All you need is Love by The Beatles.

This Tuesday Kev and Vi Celebrate 25 years of marriage. And of course love has been a major part of their life together. But is Love all we need? Are the Beatles correct? Or is there more to it than that?

This morning I'd like us to take a look at what characteristics are important in our relationships.

Whether we are single, dating, engaged, married. Whatever relationships we have with friends' family colleagues, I hope some of the things we look at this morning will encourage and spur us on in our relationships.

Let's turn to

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Here we see different characteristics for relationships.

Do you spend time with anyone else apart from yourself? Then this is relevant for you!

In this passage we see Paul talking about putting on different virtues or characteristics. Like putting on clothes, these are things we need to wear. By not putting these things on we are basically naked.

So what are the areas that Paul says are important in relationships?

Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness, Patience, Forgiveness, and Love.

First, Compassion.

Compassion is an attitude we have towards other people —it literally means cut to the heart. It is a deep feeling we have towards others. It is how you might feel when watching

something like comic relief on TV when there are appeals for the poorest of people in the world particularly children. It is caring for and about other people's vulnerability and strengths which will overflow into how you treat them privately and in public.

### Second, Kindness.

When you put on the clothes of kindness you will be seeking the good of other's as you deal with each other's weaknesses and sore spots. Kindness brings healing as we care for others. In the bible it says that God's kindness leads to repentance, or a change of direction. In relationships, kindness towards each other will cause you to want to change for the other person.

### Third, Humility.

If ever there is an area where pride and the need to be right and the struggle for power occur, it's in relationships, particularly marriage. Lack of humility leads to all sorts of trials and struggles. Humility recognises the other's equal status, recognises that each has needs and plans which are equally valid.

### Fourth, Gentleness.

Gentleness is another worthy item of clothing for a marriage and relationships. Gentleness is what a God centred and controlled person wears. When you put on gentleness, the other can take off their self-defensive armour, wariness, fearfulness, and can put on trust. We need to be gentle in all our dealings with others, but especially as Husbands and wives in marriage.

I love when Paul says this to Timothy

[1 Tim 5 1-2](#)

[Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.](#)

Treat others with Gentleness and respect.

### Fifth, Patience.

This is a really important item to wear, I'm sure you have already found out that it is something you need in your relationships. The truth is people have the capacity to drive each other crazy! It doesn't matter what the issue is: relationships need patience and patience takes love for the other person.

### Sixth, Forgiveness.

We are all different. Thank goodness! And there will be many occasions where we need to bear with each another and ultimately forgive each another. It isn't easy! Em and I have been married for 11 years and we are still learning.

We must learn how to ask others to forgive us. Sorry is not enough. It has become a throwaway line that people use to get out of a tight situation. Asking forgiveness enables the other person to forgive you.

Let me speak to the men here, learn to make the first move! Don't let the sun go down on disagreements. Even when you are right... make the first move. It will be good for your marriage and relationships.

Finally; over all these put on love.

Love is not just an emotion. Love, is the foundation that keeps relationships, particularly marriage strong.

Love is an action; it is showing commitment to each other, it is caring for each other through good times and bad times. Love is living life sacrificing yourself for the one you love rather than thinking only of yourself.

So maybe the Beatles were right in their song. Love is all we need... but wait... These are characteristics we need to put on, but there is one who is all of these things at the same time. And that is Jesus.

It is Jesus, who is compassionate to all, whose kindness leads people to repentance, whose humility meant he came to serve and not be served. His patience with people who constantly mess things up. Gentleness shown as he gives us another chance. And his ultimate forgiveness that gives us a life we don't deserve, all wrapped up in a love that is for everyone. He is our perfect example, keep him at the centre of our relationships and he will help make them strong!

So as important as Love is, it isn't all we need. In fact, Jesus is what we need.... If we have him in our lives, and become like him, these are characteristics we will develop and exhibit.

The truth is relationships are hard work... and we cannot do it successfully without God's help, the power of the Holy Spirit.

The sad thing is friends, going to church and believing this stuff is not even a guarantee it will all work out. The divorce rates in church are not that dissimilar to the rest of society.

There are Christians who do relationships/marriage in their own strength apart without God and his power. We must be people who go on being filled with his spirit and having him at the centre of our marriages and relationships.

I love Em, my wife with all I am, but it is hard to live this without God at the centre, without the power of God helping me to Love her as she deserves.

Kev and Vi have shown that with God in their marriage, even in extremely challenging and even desperate times God and his love will sustain them. His tender care is outstanding and ultimately, Love wins, Gods love wins through.

So back to our song..

I'd like to suggest "All we need is God", don't know him? he wants to know you, he wants you to know the most fulfilling relationship that was ever created. The relationship with God the Father. And you can know him; you have heard about him today, you have heard about his love and grace. You have heard how Jesus loved us so much that he died to take our place, where we deserved punishment for all the wrong we have done.

As Paul says we need Love to cover all things in our relationships, but not love on its own. Love is nothing apart from God, the one who created it, and the one who is love.

Let me finish with another passage from the Bible:

#### God's Love and Ours

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 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 them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.