

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday May 5, 2025 - Nehemiah 1:5

5 Then I said: “LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Read Nehemiah 1 for meditation and inspiration.

WHAT IS LOVE?

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

With so much turmoil, political discord, and violence in the world, a very caring teacher decided to dialogue with her sixth graders each morning before the day's lessons. As you would expect, one morning, the discussions turned to the children's dreams and ambitions for their future. One girl, whose family was greatly affected by the Pandemic, explained that she would like to become a doctor, so she could help people just like the doctors did for her grandfather when he was hospitalized with the virus. A boy said he would like to be a psychologist because they help kids understand things like bullying, depression, and healthy friendships. And then came the turn of a kind and thoughtful young girl. The teacher braced herself because she knew how deeply world events had affected this student. "If I could choose to be anything," the girl began, "I'd be a dog. They don't have to wake up scared every morning; all they want to do is love you."

Though it's sad to hear, there is more than a grain of wisdom in that young girl's answer. And these days, I can't say that I blame her with so much to worry about in our troubled world.

In many weddings and funerals one passage stands out as "Most Requested". As we think about mothers this Mother's Day lets remember what is real love as the scriptures outlines for us. The Gift of Love Corinthians¹³ *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned but have not love, I gain nothing.*

4 Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; 5 it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; 10 but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. 13 So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Love has always been and always will be the answer to life's many issues.

Love to you and Happy Mother's Day;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger