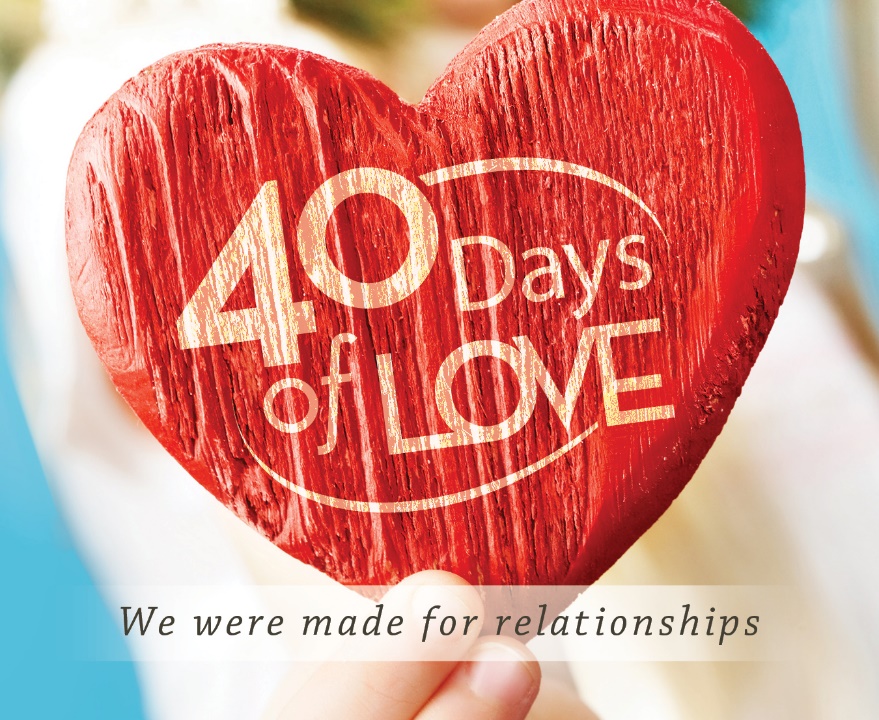
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***“It’s All About Love”***

**1 Corinthians 14:1**

**Pastor Peter Nikkel**

**Coast Hills Community Church**

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1 Corinthians 14:1 (LB)

“Let love be your greatest aim”

Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

30 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ 31 The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[b] No other commandment is greater than these.”

1Cor 16:14 NLT

“Everything you do must be done with love.”

Galatians 5:14 (NLT)

14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 John 4:7-20

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the Day of Judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. 18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 We love each other because he loved us first. 20 If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

Let’s me ask you this. **How would you complete this sentence? “My number one goal in life is...**

Five things the Bible says about love:

1. **We love because God loves us.**

1 John 4:19 “We love each other because he loved us first.”

Romans 5:5 (NIV) “And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

1 John 4:7 “Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

**John 3:17 “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”**

Romans 5:5 (NIV) “And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

1. **Love is a choice and a commitment.**

15 “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. 16 For I command you this day to love the Lord...”

1. **Love is an action not just emotion.**

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Jerry Sternin, wrote these words: "You cannot think (feel) your way into a new way of acting, you have to act your way into a new way of thinking (feeling)."

If we choose to act in loving ways our feelings will follow.

1. **The Bible says that love is a skill.**

1 John 4: 7 Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know him better. (Living Bible)

1 Tim 4:14-15 “be a pattern for them in your love, your faith, read and explain the Scriptures to the church; preach God’s Word. 15 Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress.”

While there is a personality factor that will result in great diversity in how we will express our love, we should be realize that God calls each personality type to the rule of love - no one can exempt themselves by saying I’m not the loving type. If that how you feel, be informed that God wants to change that and God can change that.

1. **Love is a habit.**

1 John 4:17 “And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the Day of Judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.”

**Action Steps:**

**1.** A the fact to love is central to our faith journey.

**2.** Accept this 40 Day Love Challenge and apply it to your life.