

HIGH SCHOOL

**CHRIST FIRST
OTHERS SECOND**

**I AM THIRD
I AM THIRD**



CENTENARY

Memory Verses for the High School 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

1989 NRSV

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

What is I AM 3RD?

I AM 3RD is based on a simple belief that Jesus Christ is first, others are second, and I am third.

We strongly believe that Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives. (Matthew 25:40)

Do our best in everything: We want to work at everything with all our hearts, as if we are working for the Lord.

(Colossians 3:23-24)

Studying Scripture: We believe all Scripture is God-breathed (from God) and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in goodness, so that through studying Scripture we may be equipped (ready) for every good work.

It is our prayer that we would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ through our weekly devotions and times of prayer, in order to help us learn more about Jesus Christ and His importance in our lives.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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Video Link



Week 1:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.”

This soccer season we will memorize 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. This passage explains that love is the supreme Christian virtue and describes what Christian love looks like. This passage is often read at weddings. A wedding is a great time to talk about love, but there is more to love than romance. Christians are called to be people who love all of our neighbors, not just our families. This is not a love that we have on our own. Rather, this is God’s love that stems from the Holy Spirit who lives in you. This type of love, that is patient, kind, and humble is the love we should take into the world everyday. This is important to recognize because Christian love is our primary form of evangelism. True dedication to a life of Christian love is a beautiful light to the world. It is hard to describe with words, but people know it, and recognize it in you when it is there.

Questions:

How can you grow in love for people? What does patient love look like?

Memory Verse:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.”



Week 2:

“It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.”

To truly love someone is to abandon selfishness. True expressions of love put another's needs over our own. We often grow irritable or resentful when we don't get our own way. This resentment can even cause us to want others to fail so it feels like we win. We would rather feel the sense of satisfaction at another person's failure than the jealousy we feel from seeing them succeed. The truth is that God loves the whole world and all the people in it. As we grow to be more like Him we must abandon our selfishness and embrace a way of life that wants what is best for our neighbor. This radical love may not always get us what we want, but it embraces God's true heart for people.

Questions:

What does unselfish love look like? How can we move on from resentment?

Memory Verse:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.”





Week 3:

“It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

We often hear love described as a feeling or emotion toward something we like. Food is a good example. If you are like me you love all sorts of sweet treats, but sometimes I feel like I want something else. This is perfectly fine with food. It is probably best for my health that I don't show consistent dedication to cookies. Christian love is not just a feeling, it is a choice. A dedication or commitment that can stand through struggle or trial. You likely will not always feel like loving someone and that's okay, it is not your feelings that matter as much as your choices. This passage does not describe a feeling that is consistent through all situations. Rather it is describing actions that are consistent through all situations.

Questions:

How can we be consistent in our love of others? How can we remain committed to one another?

Memory Verse:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”



Week 4:

“ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.”

What does it mean to be a Christian? Answers may come to your mind like believing in God, or believing in Jesus. These answers are certainly true, but they don't capture the whole picture. Human beings are so much more than just our thoughts and the Christian faith is so much more than just a claim that God exists. Our faith is innately relational. It's foundation is the relationship between God and humanity that has persisted for generations and culminated God's own self-sacrificing expression of love to us. Ideas change with time. Knowledge is great, but it pales in comparison to love. To be a follower of Jesus is to be someone who loves and is loved by God. This love then flows out of us toward others. When we invite people into our faith, we do not invite them just to claim an idea about God. We invite them into a relationship with a God who loves them and who loves you.

Questions:

How does knowing this reframe the way we share the Gospel?

Memory Verse:

“ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.”

Week 5:

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

We can only know so much. Our brains are limited in their capacity, especially in comparison to the infinite God of the universe. We can't fully understand God, we can't comprehend his plans and purposes for our lives. We look forward to a day when Jesus will return and restore all things. When that happens, we will fully know and understand. The return of Jesus is something that is often depicted as scary and may even give us some anxiety. That is not the picture that Paul paints with his words in 1 Corinthians. Paul claims that everything we can experience now is incomplete and we await the arrival of something complete. This is exciting and hopeful, not scary. When Jesus returns he brings with him restoration, and wholeness where now there is brokenness and emptiness. We can't fully understand what that will look like. We can only know in part, but what we know is that this will be a good thing for us and for the world.

Questions: What do the ideas of wholeness or completeness bring to mind for you?

Memory Verse:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.”

Week 6:

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.”

Last week we talked about how Jesus’s return will bring wholeness to our broken world. Paul continues this theme by using the example of growing up. Do you ever look back on something you said or did when you were younger and cringe a little? As we grow we change, we learn from our mistakes and become more wise with time. We feel more complete, more like ourselves than we did as children. Paul compares the return of Jesus to this process of growth. Just like the experience of growing up we may be incomplete now, but when Christ returns we will be made complete. We may think we have it all figured out now but when we look back from that vantage point we will know so much more.

Questions:

How does recognizing we can’t understand everything bring us peace?

Memory Verse:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.”



Week 7:

“Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

In this verse Paul adds a key detail to his discussion on our hope in the return of Jesus. While we are not able to fully understand God, God fully knows us. You are fully known and loved by God just as you are right now.

No secret or thought is hidden from Him and there nothing that you can do to change His love for you. Our hope for the future is not a hope for God to love or understand us more. He already knows and loves us completely.

Rather, we long for the day when we will be made complete and we can know and love God fully. We are in need of God’s restoration, and because God loves us He will restore us through our heavenly bodies, giving us the ability to know and love Him.

Questions:

If you could as God one question today, what would it be?

Memory Verse:

“ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.”



Week 8:

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

The last few weeks of our memory verse have focused on our hope in the return of Jesus. As our memory verse for the season comes to a close, we return to the present. In the present our knowledge is incomplete and so much is wrong with us and our world that needs to be restored by God. But we have faith that God will restore all things. We have hope that God can restore all things. And above all else, we have the gift of love right now. Love is what sustains us in the brokenness of our world. We know things are not as they should be, but that does not mean we should despair and just wait for Jesus to return. Rather, God has invited us to be people of radical love in the middle of our broken world. As followers of Jesus, the greatest thing we offer the world and one another is not our ideas, but our love. So go into the world and be an example of God’s transformative love.

Questions:

How can you maintain hope in dark times? Why do you think love is the greatest above faith and hope?

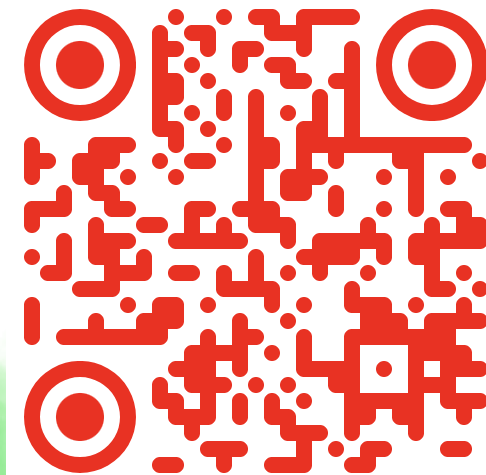
Memory Verse:

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