

# From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ  
Mobile, AL**

12 February, 2017



*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 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. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* I Corinthians 13:4-13

The words “I love you” will be shared many times – probably much more than usual – over the next few days. Over 180 million cards are exchanged every year on Valentine’s Day. Average annual spending on Valentine’s Day is approximately \$13,290,000,000. Approximately 198,000,000 roses are produced each year for this special day. That’s a lot of “I love you’s.” The spoken word has tremendous power to build us up. Words communicating our love must be spoken. We must communicate how highly we value our spouse. What is said to us has an effect on how we feel. We may not remember all of the words that were said, but we will remember how they made us feel. In *James 3:3-4*, we learn how spoken words can direct and control a relationship. In *James 3:5-6* we see that our words are powerful enough to burn deeply and change the course of a person’s life.

However, just saying I love you is not enough. A brick wall is only as strong as the mortar that holds each individual brick together. The words spoken in the message “I love you” are important, but they are only as strong as the mortar of active commitment that brings them together. This is similar to what James wrote in *James 2:15-16*. Good intentions are worthless if not coupled with committed actions. The spoken message of love must be sincere – not just hollow words. When they are truly sincere, they will be followed by actions. We must have the commitment strong enough to do everything possible to bring about all of the spoken messages. These words will come to life when we commit our time to building intimacy in our marriage. These actions put a punctuation mark on our words. They give true meaning to our words.

God loved us and followed that love with an active commitment. He gave us His only begotten Son. When we love our spouse, we should commit ourselves to them. This is a commitment of our time, energy, money, and talents. Let’s all back up our words of love with actions of love.

**RICKY**