

Love, Harry Potter, and the Apostle Paul

Love is the greatest _____ in the _____.

Love is a _____.

It is an _____, not a _____.

Love is a _____ we _____.

Our _____ us.

Love is _____.

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

For the week of February 15, 2026

Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, which particular point or principle most challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention? Why?

My Story

- 1.** In the spirit of Valentine's Day, what are three things you're loving right now? It might be a product that is making your life easier. It could be something about your current phase in life. It could be a show or a podcast or a book. What are three things you love so much that you find yourself telling others about them?

- 2.** If you had to choose a smell and/or a sound to describe your year so far, what would that smell/sound be? Why?

- 3.** Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Digging Deeper

4. Pastor Tim said that Christian love is more than just a romantic feeling, it is action. In the book of 1 John, the word “love” is used 43 times! Carefully read the often-quoted, well-known 1 John 4:7-21. List all of the places in this passage where love is described as a sentiment or an emotion. Now list all of the places in this passage where love is described as an action or deed. Are the lists equal or unequal? What does this say about God? About us?

Cite some contemporary examples of love in books, magazines, movies, television shows, or songs. Compare these images of love to 1 John 4:7-21 and to 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. In what ways are the images similar? In what ways are they different?

5. Read Leviticus 19:17-18. What do you think it means to “love your neighbor as yourself”? Read Leviticus 19:33-34. What reason does Moses give for including foreigners in the command to love our neighbor as ourselves? Now read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. What are some ways we can love God with all our heart, soul, and might?

Jesus was once asked by a legal expert which was the greatest commandment. Read his answer in Matthew 22:34-40. What is Jesus’ answer to how we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind?

Another time Jesus was asked by a legal expert just exactly who was included in loving our neighbor. Read Jesus’ answer in Luke 10:25-37. Who are the neighbors we are called to love?

Taking It Home

6. Name some specific ways that you have experienced love in action from someone else. How did it make you feel? What was your reaction?

Name some specific ways you see love in action at 2nd Presbyterian Church. What is it about these things that you value the most? If you had three wishes for how our church could show love toward one another or toward the community, what would they be?

7. 1 John 4:16 says plainly that “God is love.” With this in mind, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 aloud, but wherever you see the word “love” or the pronoun “it,” insert “God.” (Example: “God is patient. God is kind. God does not envy.”)

Now read the passage aloud again, but this time replace the word “love” or the pronoun “it” with “our church”.

Now read the passage aloud again, but this time replace the word “love” or the pronoun “it” with *your name*.

How did you feel after this exercise? What does this tell you about God? About the church? About yourself? Did the statements strike you as true or not true? What can you do to make this passage, as you read it, more truthful?