

Recap

- **Faith** - confidence of what we hope for, assurance of what we do not see (Heb 11.1); taking God at His word and acting accordingly

- **Hope**
 - **Common hope** – a strong wish/desire; fuel for prayer
 - **NT hope** - a confident expectation of a better future rooted in conviction that God raised Jesus from the dead; anchor for our souls

Definition of love

- **Doing what is best for another regardless of merit and even at great personal cost**
- **Rom 5.8-9:** God demonstrated His love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
 - **Best for us** – to be justified, saved from God's wrath
 - **Regardless of merit** – while we were still sinners
 - **Great personal cost** – life of Jesus

Centrality of love

Matthew 22.37-40: Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Love towards God looks like:

- **Devotion**

- **Luke 10.41-42:** “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

- **Obedience**

- **1 John 5.3:** In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome

Love towards others looks like:

- **Patient-** KJV ‘suffers long,’ idea is taking a long time before fuming/breaking into flames; long-fuse
- **Kind-** to do something useful for another
- **Does not envy-** doesn’t compete w/others for power, possessions, position, privilege, etc.
- **Does not boast-** not a windbag, ostentatious, call undue attention to self
- **Is not proud-** ‘puffed up,’ arrogant
- **Is not rude-** behave indecently, cause others to blush
- **Is not self-seeking-** seeks good of others
- **Is not easily angered-** is not touchy

Love towards others looks like:

- **Keeps no record of wrongs-** doesn't keep score
- **Does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth-** Jesus is Truth so use His character/mission as measuring stick, if it doesn't line up, don't delight in it
- **Always protects-**
 - 'to cover closely' like a roof 1Pet 4.8- Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
 - 'to bear,' Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- **Always trusts-** not gullible, but doesn't lose faith
- **Always hopes-** chooses to see best in others/think best of others
- **Always perseveres-** tenacious, doesn't give up