

CHURCH OF THE HIGHLANDS

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Study Guide

# The Most Excellent Way

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## Major Points

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- 1 We must examine ourselves first before blaming others for relational dysfunction**  
*Jeremiah 6:16*
- 2 Slow down at relational crossroads — hasty decisions driven by emotion produce collisions**  
*Jeremiah 6:16*
- 3 Ask for the ancient, tried-and-tested way of love rather than following the world's pattern**  
*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*
- 4 Love is patient — impatience produces Ishmaels while God has promised an Isaac**  
*Genesis 21:1-3*
- 5 Love is kind — it sees the person before the problem, just as Jesus saw Zacchaeus and the woman at the well**  
*Luke 19:5*
- 6 Forgiveness sets you free — keeping a ledger of wrongs takes your relationships the wrong way**  
*1 Corinthians 13:5*
- 7 Love perseveres through changing terrain — adapt rather than quit**  
*1 Corinthians 13:7*

## Key Quotes

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*It is me, I'm the problem, it's me.*  
at 4:47

*Just because you aced it on Valentine's Day does not mean you know how to love.*  
at 8:50

*Doing is different than being. I don't need you to do all the great things one day a year called Valentine's Day. I need you to be love.*  
at 14:47

*Impatience produces Ishmael's.*  
at 18:48

*Kindness always sees the person before the problem.*  
at 20:11

*“Forgiveness doesn't mean that they might do everything you want them to do. It means you set yourself free to live the life that God called you to live.*

at 24:21

*“Love keeps driving. Love changes the tire. Love puts on the window wipers. Love puts on the fog lights.*

at 26:42

*“Some of you are about to quit on something you shouldn't quit. Some of you are about to slam a door on something you shouldn't slam a door on.*

at 27:52

## Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Gambill used the brown plastic slipper story to illustrate how we can be the source of our own relational problems. What is an area of your life where you might be 'dropping brown plastic' while blaming someone else?  
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2. Pastor Gambill said that 'doing is different than being' when it comes to love. How can you move from performing acts of love on special occasions to consistently being a person of love in your daily interactions?  
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3. Pastor Gambill warned that impatience produces Ishmaels — forcing outcomes instead of waiting on God's promises. Is there a relationship or situation where you are tempted to force a result rather than trust God's timing?  
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4. Pastor Gambill described kindness as seeing the person before the problem. Think of a current conflict or frustration in a relationship — how might the situation change if you focused first on seeing the person rather than addressing the issue?  
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5. Pastor Gambill said some of us 'are about to quit on something we shouldn't quit.' What practical snow tires, fog lights, or wipers can you put on your love to persevere through a difficult relational season right now?  
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## Word Studies

עֹלָם

**olam**

*Hebrew*

Perpetuity, everlasting, ancient time; used in Jeremiah 6:16 for 'ancient paths,' conveying the idea of God's timeless, enduring way that has been proven across all generations.

*Usage: Used over 400 times in the Old Testament, often describing God's eternal covenant faithfulness (Psalm 136, Genesis 21:33).*

μακροθυμία

**makrothymia**

*Greek*

Longsuffering, patience, forbearance; literally 'long-tempered.' In 1 Corinthians 13:4 it describes love's first attribute — the willingness to endure offense and delay without retaliation.

*Usage: 14 times in the New Testament, including Galatians 5:22 as a fruit of the Spirit and Colossians 3:12 as a virtue believers are to 'put on.'*

χρηστεύομαι

**chrēsteuomai**

*Greek*

To show oneself kind, to be benevolent; used only in 1 Corinthians 13:4 in the entire New Testament. It describes kindness not as a feeling but as an active, deliberate way of being toward others.

*Usage: 1 time in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 13:4), though the related adjective *chrēstos* is used 7 times.*

## Cross References

### Colossians 3:12-14

Paul's instruction to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience — and over all these virtues, to put on love — parallels the attributes of love in 1 Corinthians 13.

### Ephesians 4:31-32

The call to put away bitterness, anger, and slander, and instead be kind and forgiving, directly supports Gambill's teaching on forgiveness and kindness as the way of love.

### Proverbs 14:29

'Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly' — reinforces the message to slow down and not let emotions drive relational decisions.

### Romans 12:9-12

Paul's exhortation to let love be genuine, to outdo one another in showing honor, and to be patient in tribulation connects with the sermon's themes of authentic love and perseverance.

### Matthew 18:21-22

Jesus tells Peter to forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times, underscoring the sermon's call to be fluent in forgiveness rather than keeping a record of wrongs.

## Further Reading

- **The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God**  
*by Timothy Keller*
- **Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People**  
*by Bob Goff*
- **Now That Faith Has Come: A Study of the Epistle to the Galatians**  
*by Charlotte Gambill*

## Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Jeremiah 6:16	Read Aloud	7:00	<i>This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroad...</i>
1 Corinthians 13:1-3	Read Aloud	17:30	<i>If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but...</i>
1 Corinthians 13:4-8	Read Aloud	18:40	<i>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, i...</i>
Luke 15:11-24	Referenced	22:20	<i>The parable of the prodigal son — the father patie...</i>
Luke 19:1-10	Referenced	26:00	<i>Jesus sees Zacchaeus in the tree and calls him dow...</i>
John 4:7-26	Referenced	26:20	<i>Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well, seein...</i>