

SAVE the DATE

**Men's Breakfast on JULY 16
8 - 9:30am at LFC-Huntersville**

Join men from all three LFC communities for some good food (free), conversation and a brief word from LFC friend, Pastor Byron Davis.

RSVP at lakeforest.org/events



A STRONG man is...



If asked to list characteristics of a strong man, what comes to mind? Think of a few right now.

How early in your list did love come to mind? When you think of Jesus, the perfect man, does love come to mind sooner? The truth is, Jesus IS love, and far from being a point of weakness, Jesus' love is where we find His strength.

Loving others is imperative to a good and fruitful life. There is no better way to live. If you want to be heard, love more. If you want to be noticed, love more. If you want to live a life with purpose, love more. If you love, people will hear you over the noise of the world's clamors for attention. They will remember your voice. If you do not love, you will just be another sound that gets lost in the distortions of life.

The following is a paraphrase of the great "love chapter" of the Bible (1st Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV)...

Love never runs out. It constantly flows with gentle power. Love seeks the needs of others before they know that they even exist. Love is not jealous of other people's successes but applauds and enjoys them as its own. Love does not showcase an image that does not exist but is authentic, humble, and honest. Love does not draw attention to our victories but allows them to be a secret parade where all heaven cheers. Love keeps good boundaries of self-control and accepts feedback from others even if one does not agree.

Love does not allow others to endure our impulses, our selfishness, or our irritable attitudes. Love looks forward and does not look back. It forgets yesterday's failures because tomorrow is a new day coming. Love stands up for truth and speaks it with calm clarity.

Love will persevere to the end. Love never gives up when all hope is lost. Instead, love provides the power for hope to prosper. Love never gives

in when one is tired and weak. Instead, love supplies strength to overcome. Love will always provide security, safety, and steadfastness. Love endures forever.

Men, be strong in love. It will be an ongoing, challenging yet greatly fulfilling pursuit. Remember the words of Jesus Christ when asked for the most important commandment:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31, NIV).

Includes excerpts from the book "Embracing Love- Living on the Other Side of Disconnected Relationships" by Steve Benson (pages 255-256). West Bow Press © 2015 Used by permission.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION...

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