



LO
VE

ACTUALLY

1 Corinthians 13:4-8^a, 1 John 4:7-11

¹ If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. ² If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. ³ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

⁴ Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head,

⁵ Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

⁶ Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

⁷ Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.
^{8a} Love never dies. ...

**LOVE IS NOT EXCLUSIVELY A
GOOD EMOTION**

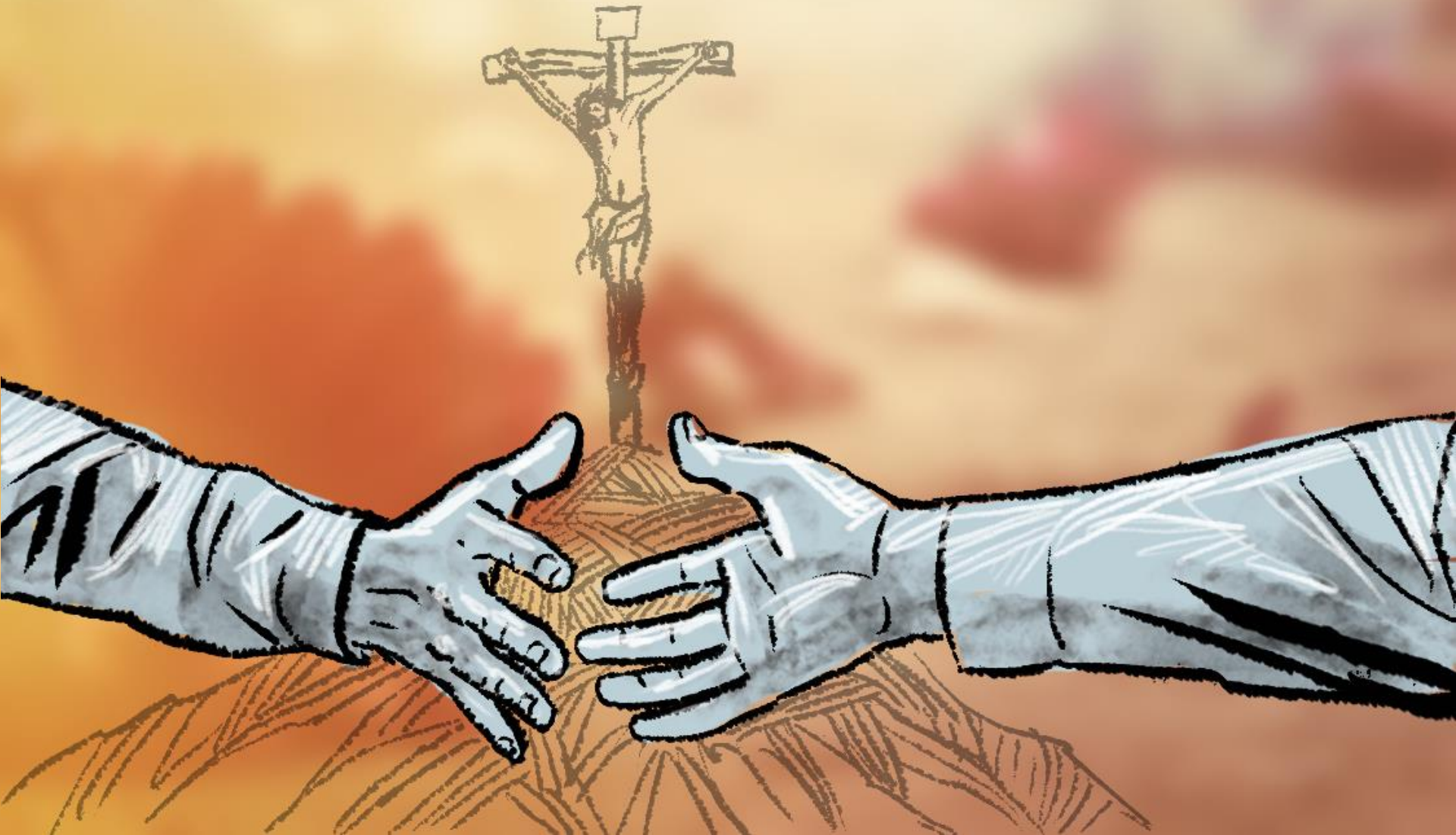


**LOVE IS AN ACTIVE,
INTENTIONAL CARE FOR THE
WELL-BEING OF OTHERS**



⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

**GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS THE SOURCE
OF OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS**



A CONFESSION OF GOD'S LOVE

GOD is patient and kind to me.

God is not jealous,

God does not brag, and is not proud.

GOD is not rude towards me,

is not selfish,

and does not get upset with me.

GOD does not count up wrongs

that I have done.

GOD is not happy with the evil
that happens in my life,
but is happy with the truth forming in me.
GOD patiently endures all things in me.
God always trusts,
always hopes,
and always remains strong for me.
God's Love never ends for me.

Amen



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