

Love

Holy Week: March 28 – April 3

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, love never ends!"

1 Corinthians 13: 7-8

The events around Holy Week, particularly those final 24 hours of Jesus' life leading up to his death, are referred to as the passion of Christ. The word "passion" has its roots in a Latin verb meaning "to suffer". Christ endured suffering out of love for us. Love inspires passion, which is more than intense feelings for another. Love is willingness to give what we have and share what we can for the sake of another.

Not that love is suffering, love is joy and belonging and grace and comfort, or at least love should be. But love is also our willingness to share support and help with one another in times of need, our willingness to sacrifice for another's sake, to hold on to each other even when things are tough, to endure challenges and difficulties with the hope that we can and will get through these things together, and that we will share blessed times again.

One of the most beautiful verses in the bible simply declares that "God is love!" God's whole being is about love, so much so that God created the universe so that there would be a place for love to exist. And God made us so that love might flourish in this creation. Created in the image of God, our purpose is love too, to love God and one another, and to be loved. And that love means that with each other we will bear with one another, endure with one another, and share hope with one another so that our love will never end.

#REthinkILC Lent Photo for this week: Inspired by the word "**LOVE**", take a photo and either put it on your social media with **#REthinkILC** or email it to kelly@immanuel.us by noon on Saturday, April 3.

REnew52 action for this week: PRAY. This Holy Week pray for the power of God's love and Jesus' passion, to renew you, your family, friends, community, country, and world in compassion and love.