

# The Way of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Refresh Series #5 – Refresh your relationships  
October 18, 2009, Jeff Edwards, Northwest Community Church

Review “Refresh”: Messages that will refresh your life right where you need it.

Who is to blame?

*Jn 9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

*<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.*

## Q/ How can I refresh my relationships?

Refreshing ideas: **Be a friend/partner...**

### 1. As **humble** as Jesus.

*Jn 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

### 2. **Faithful** and forgiving like God.

*Ex 34:5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, ...<sup>6</sup> “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.”*

### 3. **Choosing** love from God, not reactions from my **Gut**.

*<sup>1Jn 4:7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. ... <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar.*

*“the average life span of a romantic obsession is two years” - Dr. Dorothy Tennov*

### 4. Practicing the **Way** of love.

*<sup>1Co 12:31</sup> And now I will show you the most excellent way. ... <sup>13:13</sup> ...faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. <sup>14:1</sup> Follow the way of love...*

*<sup>1Co 13:4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.*

## A/ Pursue **God’s love over** all my relationships.

*<sup>SS 2:4</sup> He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. <sup>5</sup> Strengthen me with raisins, **refresh** me with apples, for I am faint with love.*