



THE FORWARD EDGE OF FREEDOM

February 18, 2014

I LOVE YOU!!! No greater words can be said, yet so often they are doled out without complete understanding, or they are never heard by those who need to hear them desperately. No doubt more people will hear these words in February than in any other month. Will they be said with a manipulative spirit, trying to gain the favor of another with only temporary satisfaction in mind? Will there be a child who has gone for weeks, months, or years with eyes filled with hurt desperately wanting to feel accepted by their mom or dad? What about a spouse who longs to know they are appreciated, if only their mate would say those words with deep heart felt conviction. The Bible says in I Corinthians chapter 13 starting with verse 4 “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

Charity, as the Bible uses the word indicates love in action. The Greek word is *agape*. Love is not simply a passing fancy, but it is a commitment to those to whom it is expressed. The words are matched with actions that leave a clear signal they were said in true earnest. For those who are still single, and looking for the one God has for them for life, I recommend the book “How to Avoid Falling in Love with a Jerk” by Dr. John Van Epp.

For those of us who are married, our job is to endeavor to create an atmosphere that allows for the free flow of shared highs and lows. If you were to corner me and ask me to give you one word that defines the greatest contributor to divorce, I would say – Selfishness. The only person you can control in your marriage is YOU. In verse 4 it uses the word “vaunteth,” and it means to boost one’s self. Verse 5 expounds on this by saying “seeketh not her own.” It leaves me with the understanding that charity, which is love exemplified, puts others first before our own desires. When you bring children into the mix, to say “I Love You” also means you are willing to ask your son or daughter to forgive you when you demonstrate an unfavorable action. Our greatest example is Jesus. I John 4:19 says, “We love him, because he first loved us.” This month, let all of us restore the value to these most treasured words. My prayer is they will be said with heart felt conviction and matched with a life of clear examples. I LOVE YOU!!



Your Friend in the Fight for Truth,
LCDR Richard H. Wiese, CHC, USN, FMF



Ps. 149:6 “LET THE HIGH PRAISES OF GOD BE IN THEIR MOUTH, AND A TWO-EDGED SWORD IN THEIR HAND.”