

# To love is war

## Three enemies of love

### 1. The World

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life, is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> Yet the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever.

**1 JOHN 2:15-17 NABRE**

### 2. The Flesh

For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want.

**GALATIANS 5:17 NABRE**

### 3. The Devil

<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will rise up and [a]mislead many people. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who

**MATTHEW 24:11-13 NASB**

## STRATEGIES TO WIN THE WAR

### 1. Defend love as your most valuable asset

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3 NABRE**

### 2. Take the initiative: The one who loves is the strongest

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, <sup>5</sup> it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7 NABRE**

### 3. Seek the source of love, which is God

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. <sup>9</sup> For we know partially and we prophesy partially, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. <sup>12</sup> At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup> So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-13 NABRE**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let's love one another; for love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was revealed in us, that God has sent His only Son into the world so that we may live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**1 JOHN 4:7-12 NASB**