

Love Is Our Greatest Purpose

By [Jay E Abernathy, Jr](#)



We affirm that love is our greatest purpose.
Accepting one another is the truest form of faithful living.
The search for truth is our constant star.
We pledge our hearts, minds, and hands:
To challenge injustice with courage;
To find hope in times of fear;
And to live out our Unitarian Universalist values every day as a beloved community.
Thus do we covenant with each other and with all that is sacred in life.

Ways to love well by Jake Daghe

Love Bears

Life is hard. Great love doesn't run from that difficulty, but it doesn't always run straight into it as well. Instead, great love purposefully and effectively comes alongside and bears burdens. Sometimes, that looks like just being present, sitting alongside someone in pain without saying or doing a thing. Sometimes, that means being more strategic and actually shifting responsibilities, picking up details, or stepping in and tangibly relieving a need.

When we bear well, we are empathetic, intentional, [good listeners](#), and kind.

Love Believes

This practice is two-fold. First, great love believes in the possibility of the days ahead with full conviction. Great love sees within a person and sees not only the current beauty but the future beauty as well. Great love believes that future beauty lies within each of us and that we will all get there one day.

Secondly, great love trusts. Easy to say, hard to do. Trust is one of the things most frequently broken. Great love doesn't trust unconditionally. Yet in spite of past hurts, which are not to always be minimized, because of that undergirding belief that what lies ahead is more beautiful than the present, great love trusts.

When we believe well, we are eager, helpful, supportive, and cheering each other on.

Love Hopes

Hope is the treasure of great love. Hope is the undying flame that the effort, time, energy, and intentionality is not in vain. Great love hopes for the other that the gap between reality and the perfection of love will continue to inch closer and closer to one another.

Hope is often what fuels us towards one another over and over again. Hope that growth is happening, that joy is possible, and that the other person will love you more today than they did yesterday.

When we hope well, we are rooted, confident, joyful, and encouraging.

Love Endures

The difference between love enduring and bearing is the difference between life being hard and being hurtful.

Great love bears what is hard and it endures what is hurtful.

Because no one truly understands love completely, there will always be a gap in understanding and execution. That gap comes with difficulty and sorrow. Great love embraces that gap with strength because it knows that endurance is the currency of all lasting love.

When we endure well, we are stronger, gracious, lasting, and peaceful.

Love is a decision. It is an action in one moment requires thought and intentionality and in another is best experienced in pure enjoyment. Love is fun, scary, hard, exciting, and beneficial.