



**SPOKANE COUNTY  
CHAPLAINCY  
SERVICES**



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**WHAT A STORM**

Chaos. Some would say our Country seems to be in such disarray and disunity - and they might be right. But as I look around I feel like there are many examples of compassion and care. Currently - with Hurricane Harvey - you see people coming from across the country, bringing all they can to help whoever they can. You have restaurants, and jacked up trucks, the "Cajun Army" and not to mention the countless First Responders from all over the Country working around the clock to help as many people as possible. Obviously, being September, 9/11 comes to mind as well. Another example of people coming from far and wide to help strangers. Color, race, religion - it is all thrown out the window and love takes over. This is a perfect picture of the

call our Heavenly Father has given each of us. In Mark 12:30-31 Jesus himself says these are the most important commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

1 Corinthians 13:4-6 even lays out specifically what Love is. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always perseveres."

No where does it make mention of gender, religion, moral compass, marital status, or belief system - Just love. I believe this is something to be focused on. In Proverbs 10 we are told that Hatred stirs up conflict, but Love conquers all. Isn't that the truth? Someone shares something hateful or judgmental on Facebook and it stirs up all kinds of trouble. But in times like these - in the middle of the storm - People show compassion and care for their neighbor, which breeds more compassion and kindness. 1 Peter 3:8 sums it up pretty flawlessly: "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

Mark Smith