

Why Can't This Be Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" - 1 Cor 13:7

Main Point: The Bible tells us what true love is and how it functions in your life.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

What was your first experience with what you thought was love? How did it work out?

Has there been a love in your life that has transformed your view of true love? Who and how?

How is culture reshaping the definition of love? Is this a positive or negative change?

Corinth was known for having a warped view of love, but they were spiritually gifted people. Paul worked to bring them to a Biblical understanding of love by defining it the way God designed and displayed it to mankind.

1) The Bible tells us **LOVE ISN'T FREE.** Read together in **1 Corinthians 13:4-5.**

Real love takes real work. What kind of work is Paul saying we must put into loving someone?

What does it mean to be patient in love? How can you demonstrate that with your family and friends, and even your "enemies?"

What did love cost our Heavenly Father? Read Romans 5:8. What are you willing to sacrifice to show true love today?

2) God's Word says **LOVE IS CONSIDERATE.** Read together **1 Corinthians 13:6.**

To be considerate means showing kindly awareness or regard for another's feelings or circumstances. How does this factor into loving someone? How does it factor into God's love for you?

Pastor mentioned that as Christians one of our goals is to cheer people on in life. What does it mean to "carry one another's burdens" and how does that fulfill the law of Christ? (**Gal. 6:1-2**)

A considerate love means acting in the best interest of others despite the cost. How did Christ demonstrate this? How can you demonstrate that concept this week?

3) God shows us that **LOVE LASTS**. Read together **1 Corinthians 13:7**.

Thinking in terms of construction, what does a “load bearing wall” do? How does this apply to the concept that love “bears all things?”

Have you seen love endure through the relationships around you? What models of Biblical love have you been witness to?

Romans 8:38-39 tells us “for I am persuaded that...height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God.” His love for us is relentless and never ending. What does David say about God’s love in **2 Chron. 7:6**? How should the way we love others be affected by the way God loves us?

Pray:

As you close your group time pray that God would open your heart to see the cost of true love. Thank Him for the price He paid to show love for YOU. Pray the Holy Spirit would bring you to love others more than yourself. To consider all people higher than you and love them no matter their background, color, status, etc. Ask the Father to restore relationships that have suffered because your love has not been constant. Seek his forgiveness and his kingdom and pray that He would work in your life to achieve a lasting love!

Connect:

Listen to the song “Relentless” by UNITED. Close your eyes and worship Him for the relentless love he displayed to us on the cross. Pray for a heart that can love like your Heavenly Father’s.