

Stop Going to Church 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

November 1, 2020

Warming Up

1. Share with the group your favorite “secular” song about love. What is the message of the song? How does it line up, or not line up with what God says is true love?

Knowing the Gospel...

2. 2 of the words for “love” used in the Bible are *Phileo*= powerful brotherly bond of love, *Agape*= unconditional, committed, sacrificial, act of the will love. Check out these passages and identify which type of love the author is referring to:

1 John 4:7-8
1 Corinthians 13:1
John 11:3
John 13:34-45
1 John 4:9
John 20:2
John 3:16

3. Jesus gave us the greatest model of true love that has ever been displayed, not only in his death but also in the way he lived his life. Look at the list of love-descriptors in verses 4-7. Discuss specific ways that Jesus exhibited these in his life on earth. Identify specific occasions when these were evident in his life.

4. Why do you think Paul placed this chapter on love where he did in 1 Corinthians? How does the context of this chapter **challenge**, **affirm**, or **enhance** your understanding of it? Discuss what you think are some of the implications of this chapter for us as a church?

Live the Gospel....

5. What do verses 1-3 teach us about motivations behind actions? (Check out 1 Corinthians 4:4-5). What are some impure motives that could lead/drive a person to do some of the things listed in verse 3? How can we know if our/or others' actions are being motivated by agape love? Are there some key questions we can ask ourselves in order to evaluate?

6. 1 Cor. 13:4-7 provides us with one of the greatest descriptions of love that has ever been written. Consider the following list of love's qualities from these verses and answering the following questions:

1. Who in my life have I known to exhibit 1 or more of these qualities?
2. How have they impacted your life?
3. In which of these qualities of love do you think you have room for growth?
4. Have you ever seen a lack of these qualities damage a Christian's testimony? If so, how?

Qualities of love (listed positively) 1 Cor. 13:4-8a

- Patient
- Kind
- Content ("does not envy")
- Modest ("does not boast")
- Humble ("is not arrogant")
- Polite ("is not rude")
- Yielding/selfless ("does not insist on its own way")
- Pleasant, nice, cheerful ("not irritable")
- Kind/forgiving ("not resentful")
- Seeks good ("does not rejoice at wrongdoing")
- Rejoices with truth
- Bears all things
- Believes all things
- Hopes all things
- Endures all things
- Enduring

7. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Share of a time when you might have thought you were doing something with pure motives, out of true love, but after searching your heart you realized that was not the case? How did that impact others around you?

8. Spend some time praying as a group for each other to grow in love as Christ loved. Pray for our country during our election week and pray for God's people to love like Christ loved during this time in our country.

Tell the Gospel....

9. How can a truly loving spirit speak to our world and point people to Christ, especially during this election season?

Next Week: 1 Corinthians 14:1-19