

Sermon Discussion Questions

September 2, 2018



“Love Expands”

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

1. Do you believe in God’s objective reality and moral standards, meaning that they are not just true for you, but that they are true regardless of what others believe about them? Why or why not?
2. Have you realized how much relativism affects you, such as by being tempted to live as you please, by thinking it’s arrogant to believe that you have the truth, or by thinking that everyone just has different beliefs about God and morality and therefore there really is no truth about them? How would you explain the flaws in these ideas to someone?
3. How might you improve in how you handle disagreements, such as by starting with common ground and being kinder and gentler as you discuss? Does knowing how much everyone needs Christ motivate you to do this better? See 2 Tim. 2:24-25.
4. Reflecting on your past, what has helped you realize the reality and importance of loving others, or showing goodwill toward them in the ways described in 1 Cor. 13:4-8b? In other words, how has God built you up in love?
5. Consider how God has called us to love and serve others with our gifts, just as He has loved us, and how people are measurably happier and healthier when they freely give just as they have freely received (not to be confused with the idea that if you give X amount, you are guaranteed to receive Y and Z). How might you show more love to others around you, thinking about the different aspects of love described in 1 Cor. 13:4-8b?
6. We considered how sometimes we have a hard time receiving exhortation or correction. Do you have difficulty with this? If so, reflect on who you are in Christ and Proverbial wisdom about it. Also, are there people you need to forgive for past hurts? If it’s hard to keep no record of wrongs, reflect on what God has done about sin and how He makes forgiveness possible.
7. We have already received an offer to help with security for the upcoming women’s support group! Are you able to help with childcare for it? Could you help monitor the lobby some Sunday mornings, or help to lead our children’s ministry, missions efforts, or faith groups, or encourage someone else in one of these areas? Let us know!

“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 hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” - 1 Cor. 13:4-8b