



Shelby Christian Church

CORE 52: LIVING IT – LOVE * JOHN 3:16, 1 CORINTHIANS 13, ROMANS 5:8, 8:38-39
1 JOHN 3:16-17 * 7/27/2025

What is one food that you would say you “love?” What’s your best memory of eating that particular food? Why do you love it? Is your love related to the ingredients? Nutrients? Healthiness?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 3:16

What does this verse tell us about God's attitude toward the world? What did God do to show His love, according to this verse? What does it mean that God “gave” His Son? How does this point to Jesus’ mission? Who is the offer of eternal life available to? What is the result of believing in Jesus? How does this verse summarize the message of the entire Gospel?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13

What spiritual gifts does Paul mention in verses 1–3, and how do they compare to love? How does Paul describe love in verses 4–7? Which qualities stand out to you? Which do you find most challenging to live out? What does Paul say about the permanence of love in verses 8–13? How is biblical love different from the world’s idea of love? Why do you think Paul emphasizes that love is greater than faith and hope? When you take this chapter out of the romantic wedding setting, what does it mean to you?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 5:8

Why is it significant that Christ died for us “while we were still sinners”? How does this verse challenge the idea that we need to earn God’s love or forgiveness? What does this teach us about the nature of God's love compared to human love?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 8:38-39

What kinds of things does Paul say cannot separate us from God’s love? Why do you think Paul lists such a wide range of things? What does this passage teach us about the nature and strength of God's love? How might this assurance have encouraged the original audience of Romans—many of whom faced persecution? Why is it significant that Paul is “convinced” of this truth?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 3:16-17

Why does John connect love for others with tangible, sacrificial action? What does it reveal about someone's heart if they ignore a brother or sister in need? How does this passage challenge our cultural understanding of love as primarily emotional or verbal? How do these verses reflect the difference between genuine Christian love and superficial religion?

APPLICATION

Do you remember the first time you "fell in love?" How did you know?

If love is a verb more than a noun, share the most extraordinary act of love you have ever witnessed or received.

Read together 1 Corinthians 13 again two times. In the first reading, identify the person closest to you (spouse, child, best friend, sibling) and underline the one attribute of love that you need to improve in your relationship. In the second reading, do the same thing only think about a person you may be at odds with (a colleague, family member, neighbor, business partner, ex).

Plan a practical community project that this group could do together to practically share the love of Jesus.

PRAYER