

Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

What the Church Needs Now is Love...

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Todd Chapman - November 14, 2021

Love, not conveyed, destroys the usefulness of any expression of giftedness.

Love is always rooted in the encouragement of the other person.

Love never ends.

Love is the most significant character trait of our belonging to Jesus.

Notes:

Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Reading the Text:

1. Paul references many gifts in 13:1-3 from his list of gifts in 12:8-10 and 12:28-30. What is his point in bringing them up here in vv. 1 - 3?
2. Given the connection back to Chapter 12, what is the most immediate context for the demonstrations of love listed in vv. 4 - 7?
3. How would you paraphrase vv. 8 - 13? How does it fit in the flow of Paul's argument?

Knowing the Full Picture:

4. Read Jesus' statement on love immediately after washing the disciple's feet - John 13:34-35. Jesus' statement is also immediately directed at His followers' love for each other. Why do you think our loving each other is so important to Jesus and Paul?

Living It Out:

5. Were you ever taught to do the right thing regardless of your motives, and regardless of your feelings? What happens when we apply that teaching to Christianity? How does that line up with Paul's teaching?
6. What do we do when we don't feel we have the ability to love in the way that Paul has described?
7. Who in your life do you find difficult to love? (You don't need to say it out loud.) Pray for each other that God would give us the ability to love even those people.