

1 Corinthians 13: What Love Looks Like

Getting started: The Bible says that God is love (1 John 4:8). What does that mean or what comes to mind when you hear that?

Read vv. 1-3 How important Love

1. The KJV uses the word *charity* instead of love throughout the chapter. Why do you think the translators choose that word rather than the word *love* for *agape*?
2. What does Paul say he sounds like if he can speak great swelling words but does not have love? (v. 1) Put his description in your own words.
3. If a person has great spiritual gifts like prophecy, knowledge and faith but does not have love, what is he? (v. 2) If a person is generous and caring to the poor or gives his body to be burned, what is he without love? (v. 3) Based then on these verses, how is the effectiveness of one's ministry evaluated?

Read vv. 4-7 Nature of Love

4. What does "suffer long" mean? How does that differ from patience? Since love is kind, what kinds of things should love be doing? (v. 4)
5. What problems in relationships would be solved by "not being puffed up, or behaving rudely, or being provoked" confront? (v. 4b-5) What problem is addressed by the word "thinketh no evil"?

6. What two ways of rejoicing are contrasted in verse 6? Which kind of rejoicing is demonstrated by our culture? (See Rom. 1:29-32). Give an example of love rejoicing in truth (v. 6)
7. In your own words, what causes Bible love to endure, to go the distance? What kind of spirit does love maintain? (v. 7)

Read vv. 8-13 Love reigns supreme.

8. What reason is given for putting love ahead of every other spiritual activity in the church? (v. 8).
9. What weakness do spiritual gifts like knowledge and prophecy have (v. 9)? What "perfect" thing will cure the problems of our present spiritual weakness(es)? (v. 10-12)
10. Define faith, hope and love. Why would Paul say that love is the greatest of the three?