

The Power of Love

1 Corinthians 13

August 8, 2021

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Guest speaker series

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

We all have so many thoughts about what love really means. Is it the feeling of butterflies in your stomach? Is it something that someone does for somebody else? In conversation, we use the word "love" pretty loosely and interchangeably with other emotions. It can range from "I love pizza" to "I love my spouse." But what if God's definition of true love is far deeper than we ever imagined? In this study we learn more about the true meaning of love and why living by this Biblical understanding dramatically changes the way we approach and experience everyday life.

[LINK to SMALL GROUP VIDEO MATERIALS](#)

REALIZE

1. Love isn't loud

- **1 Cor. 13:1-3**
- **Leader Notes**
 - 1. Corinth was a busy city with a lot of hustle and bustle and numerous distractions. Relationships were primarily transactional and shallow.
 - 2. God calls us to love in a self sacrificial way. Biblical Jesus-centered love is an absorbing kind of love.
 - 3. Biblical love is anchored in truth not fantasy.
- **Question for reflection:** What are some examples that you have observed in the popular culture of love? How are those examples in line with the biblical definition?

2. Love isn't lame

- **1 Cor. 13:4-7**
- **Leader Notes**
 - 1. Love is described in 15 different ways. All 15 ways are verbs and not adjectives.
 - 2. Love doesn't sit around waiting for something to happen, love is a verb.
 - 3. Jesus is the only one capable of loving biblically.

- **Question for reflection:** How have you failed to live up to the biblical definition of love? List 3 specific examples.

3. Love is selfless

- **1 Cor. 13:8-10**
- **Leader Notes**
 - 1. Spiritual gifts are for today and very important.
 - 2. The gifts are not more important than the Gift Giver.
 - 3. Love will outlast the gifts when Jesus returns to usher us into eternity.
- **Question for reflection:** When you consider the work of Jesus, how is the cross of Christ a demonstration of the power of love?

4. Love is sincere

- **1 Cor. 13:11-12, 13**
- **Leader Notes**
 - 1. We must adopt an accurate model and definition of biblical love.
 - 2. Sincerity is akin to honesty and transparency.
 - 3. The Word of God reveals the cracks in our identity and the areas that need the greatest transformation.
- **Question for reflection:** How can you demonstrate authentic and sincere love? Can you think of a friend or relative who has shown you this kind of love? If you can't think of anyone, how can you be this example of love for the people God has placed in your life?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?