



The Week of March 14, 2021
1 Corinthians 13
Love is Greater
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **Love:** (1 John 4:7-21) I choose to sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others because I have personally experienced God's love for me.

Intro Questions

- How many songs with "Love" in the title can you name?
- What are the dictionary definitions of love?
- How would you define love?
- We say we love hot dogs and we love our grandma. How are these different?

Love Is The Greater Gift

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, leading, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.

- We've already seen a few lists from Paul in this letter. Is Paul "ranking" the importance of the spiritual gifts here?
- Paul says he can show us a "better way." What do you think it is? (Hint- check out the title of today's study!)
- Why is love essential for the use of spiritual gifts?
- What happened in the Corinthian church when they exercised their gifts without love?

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak human or angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

- What is the effect of doing incredible things without love?
- Have you seen examples of people doing great things for the wrong reasons/ without love?

- Read this definition of Agape love that Pastor Scott gave us.

Agape = a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally seeks the welfare of all others

- Can you explain what Agape love is as Pastor Scott defined it in his message?

Love Is A Greater Person

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- If love were a person, what would this person be like?
 - Would you want to be around this person?
 - Would you like to be this person?
 - Are you able to love this way?
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- Read Galatians 5:22-23
- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.*
- What is the source of the kind of love that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13?
 - Can we love like this on our own?
 - How do you walk in the Spirit and exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit?

Love Is Greater Than The Now

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end.

- Why do all these things that we think are so important come to end but love continues for eternity?
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- Read 1 Corinthians 13:11
- 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 put aside childish things.*
- What on earth does this statement have to do with love?
 - How does our concept of love change as we mature emotionally? Spiritually?

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT)

Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

- Why is it hard for us to see clearly now?
- How is this the end and beginning of an eternal loving relationship with God?

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT)

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

- Why do these things remain and others do not?
- Why is love the greatest?

- Read 1 John 4:7-8

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and replace “Love” with God.

Next Steps

- The Bible tells us we are to especially show love within the church family. What are some practical ways you can show love to other church members?
- Read Matthew 5:44-47

“But I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.”

- How can you show love to your enemies or those that would spitefully use you?
- Go Deeper! Read and apply the other Love Chapter - 1 John 4.
- Ask someone that knows you well “Am I a loving person?”
- Ask God to show areas of your life where you need to show more love.