

November 26, 2023

Love
1 Corinthians 13
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Vol. 13 Num. 48

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

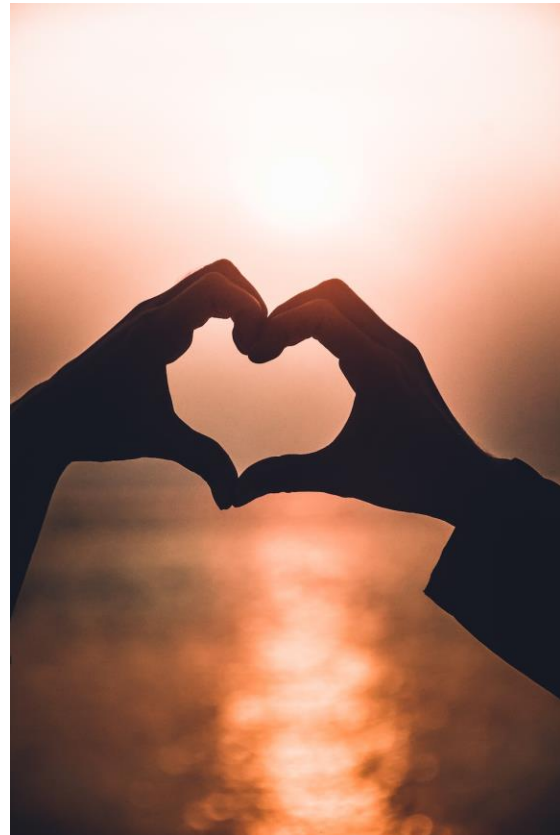
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



love.

It always protects,
always trusts, always
hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:7-8

This 1st Corinthians 13 is a chapter about love. This week we will spend some time looking at chapter 13. It gives a list of things that are true about love and a list of things that love is not. Christ showed his love for us when He went to the cross and displayed the greatest act of love creation has ever seen. How can we love like Jesus? Join us this week as we talk about what true love looks like.

The Excellence of Love

13 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. ¹³ But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

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9.

10.

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

1. What does Paul mean by being a noisy gong or clanging cymbal?
2. Why is love greater than prophecy?
3. How does jealousy destroy love?
4. How is love patient?
5. What aspect of our prophesy and knowledge is incomplete, referring to v. 9?
6. How is love greater than faith and hope?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

7. When do you find it difficult to love others?

8. When are you difficult to love?

9. What does our love for others reveal?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes