



MAIN POINT

1 Corinthians 13 tells us what love is, but it also tells us what love is not. We can know what love is but examining counterfeit versions of love. Love is patient. This means that love is not envious, but states “I’m happy for you” and avoids comparison. Love is not boastful but responds out of gratitude. Finally, love is not arrogant. It recognizes that blessing comes not from our own efforts, but from the goodness of God. Love is kind. Love is not rude. The best way to avoid saying rude things is to say nothing. Our worship should match our words. Love is not self-seeking but rather serves others. Love is not irritable. Instead of becoming annoyed with small things, we seek to be okay with those who are different from us. Finally, love does not keep count because we are on the same team. We can forgive others because we’ve been forgiven by Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [*Warm Up Question*] What is your favorite love song? Why?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What positive spiritual areas/efforts does Paul highlight here? Why does lack of love negate efforts in these areas? What is Paul saying about love here?
3. How does knowing what something is not, help us to recognize what it is (e.g., the example of handling real money to know what fake money feels like)?
4. Why is it important that our worship match our words when we are not worshipping? What happens when they get out of sync?
5. What is a quirk you have that people often get annoyed by (if you don’t know – ask your group for suggestions 😊)? How does this remind you to give grace to others?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Seven negative characteristics were presented, yet we were encouraged to pick one. Which “not” was highlighted for you? What are you doing about it?
2. Why are we able to forgive others because we’ve been forgiven by Jesus? How does Jesus empower us to love with a 1 Corinthians 13 love?
3. As a Life Group, pray for one another this week.