

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (November 14, 2021)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

We are halfway through November. Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Christmas is approaching fast. This morning we are in week three of our four week focus on Stewardship (how we take care of what God has given us). How do thankfulness, stewardship and Christmas fit together? Honestly, for Christians, they should not, cannot, be separated.

With the birth of Jesus God confirmed His love for us. His love for us leads to gratitude. Gratitude grows into generosity.

Love, Thanksgiving, Stewardship, all three, fit together and flow from One source. 1 John 4:19, "We love because HE FIRST loved us."

His love leads, everything else follows.

Our Bible passage this morning is 1 Corinthians chapter 13. This is, in my estimation (many others too) the greatest chapter on love ever written. How we steward what God has given us (which is everything) is a direct result of how thankful we are, and how aware we are, of God's love. Together at Grace may we grow in our love for God and our love of others every season of the year, every season our life.

Everything - Love = Nothing (SERMON PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 13)

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrong doing but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 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 gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Love Check-Up

For each aspect of love below (taken directly from First Corinthians 13) rate, on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being none and 10 perfection), your progress on loving as God wants you to love.

Patience: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Kindness: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Envy: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Boasting: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Arrogant: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Rude: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Does not Insist on its own way:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Is not Irritable:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Is not Resentful:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Does Not Rejoice at Wrongdoing:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Rejoice with the Truth:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Bears All Things:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Hopes All Things:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Endures All Things

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. Go back over the list. How would those who know you best rate you on each of the aspects of love above?
 2. What does this chapter on love tell us about God and God's love?
- Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to help you understand His love for You. Ask God to help you grow in grace, in patience, and in kindness toward others. Ask God to help you love Him and love others. Ask God to help you be a more generous Christian. God does love you and He will help you.