

Fruitful

RELATIONSHIPS

Fruitful Relationships: Love

August 20, 2023

Galatians 5:13-23; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read Galatians 5:13-23 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-7.*

1. Describe one or two relationships (or groups) that you have benefitted from. How does this reinforce the importance of community?
2. Vibrant relationships don't just happen – they take work and intentionality. How has this statement proven to be true in your own experience?
3. Why does God care about our relationships with others? Why is this topic of building strong, healthy relationships with others important to discuss?
4. From what you read in Galatians 5:13-23, what makes relationships difficult?
5. How would relationships around you be affected, if you manifested the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23? Spend time discussing what it takes to see this fruit grow in your life.
6. Now focus on the 1 Corinthians 13 passage, where the emphasis is love. How does 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 show the priority of love?
7. What is getting your best attention right now? Has this distracted you from cultivating and demonstrating love in your own relationships?
8. How can you keep the priority of love “front and center” in your life?
9. Look closely at the picture of love Paul gives us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What stands out to you about this?
10. How does this compare / contrast with the way we sometimes think about love in our modern culture?
11. What is one step of application you can take to demonstrate this sort of love in your relationships? (Get practical! What will you do this week to act on this?)
12. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 also points us to the Person of love, Jesus Christ. Spend time as a group sharing how Jesus is the perfect embodiment of the love we read about here. (Whenever you can, connect what you share with specific examples from the Gospels where we read about Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection.)
13. How does personally knowing and experiencing this love of Jesus shape your identity? How does it influence the way you approach relationships with others?
14. Read John 13:34-35. How does this passage underline the importance of growing as loving people, and demonstrating that love to others in noticeable ways?
15. Challenge – Memorize John 13:34-35: 34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”