

# W Love is Not Optional

Week of Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Regardless of any spiritual gift we have been given, or anything we may think we have done for God and his people, if we have not had love for others, we have gained nothing. While the Corinthians had been extraordinarily gifted, Paul reminds them of the necessity of love for one another; the absence of which renders all of their greatest sacrifices worthless.

## 1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- What does Paul mean when he says that if he gives up everything, but does not love, he gains nothing?
- How have you seen gifts being used without love? What does the outcome look like? In contrast, how have you seen gifts be used in love?
- Look at 1 John 3:16. How does Christ show His love towards us? How should Christ's love motivate us to love others?

## 2. Read 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

- How is the love that Paul describes, different from the love that the Corinthians were showing to one another?
- Love sometimes compels us to do nothing and in other times to do something. When is a time in your life that you did nothing, out of love, compared to a time that you did something, out of love?
- What are the characteristics on display in a loving relationship with others?
- Is it difficult for you to love the way Paul is instructing us to love one another?
- Love does not only help us in relationships with others, but also in our relationship with Christ. What does loving Christ look like in your life?

## 3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

- Our gifts will fade away once Christ returns, but love will never fade away. What does this mean? How does this truth shift our perspective for the coming Kingdom?
- How have you seen the power of love transform lives?

## NOTES:

# OTHER RESOURCES

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## READY TO GO DEEPER?

### Studying God's Character and Attributes

Each week we will study a different facet of God's character. Our prayer is that it will enrich our worship of Him, and that our trust in Him will grow as we seek to follow and glorify Him.

#### This week we will study God's Love

(written by Traci Hollingsworth)

The love of God is superior and enduring; "it bears all things" – 1 Corinthians 13:7 (ESV). It is selfless and grows us into full relationship with Him, as well as others. His love teaches us to love deeply and rejoice in the truth.

Proverbs 10:12  
Proverbs 17:9  
Psalms 139  
Matthew 17:20  
Matthew 21:21  
Romans 5:1-11  
1 Peter 4:8

Does the way you love reflect how God loves?

In God's economy, how is love more important than faith and hope?

## Outside our Walls Easter Serving

Join a serving team this Easter. Help us welcome hundreds of friends and neighbors as we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection together. Please consider serving together with your group as greeters, ushers or in Woodmen Kids.

Lots of Woodmen folks make it a holiday tradition to attend one service and serve at another.

To sign up...

<http://www.woodmenvalley.org/easterserving>

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## DIVE IN ON YOUR OWN TO GET READY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

*Pursuing the Best*

1 Cor. 14:1-25