



Connect Discussion Guide 12/13/20 Message | Chuck Sackett | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Humble Love: Living self-sacrificially manifests the nature of God's self-sacrifice born out at Christmas.

Key Scriptures:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 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. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

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

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 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. 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.

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

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

- Matthew 20:28

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- Philippians 2:5-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

- 1 John 4:7-9

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- Philippians 2:3-4

Message Highlights:

- The advent of Jesus is an act of self-giving love that becomes the model for Christians to emulate.
- God's humble love in Christ defines Biblical love for believers.
- Love is self-sacrifice. Love means giving up your rights in order to love others.
- Christian community means living in a way that glorifies God, and that is by treating other members of Christ's body the way God has treated us—with self-sacrificing, other-oriented love.
- Communion is a place where humility surfaces and we commit to loving others.
- Self-sacrificial love must be the center of how we relate to those around us; our families, our neighbors, our church and our community.

Conversation Starter:

- What are your favorite ways to show love to a friend or neighbor during the Christmas season (e.g. delivering cookies, caroling, paying for someone's coffee)?

Discuss the Message:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Faith and hope are such important things. Based on what Paul wrote in that passage, how is love even better than faith and hope?
2. God gives us spiritual gifts in order to love and serve others. Which spiritual gifts do you feel God has blessed you with? How have you used those gifts or grown in those gifts in this current season?
3. Who is someone in your life that loves you in a way that points you to Jesus? What are some characteristics of this type of holistic love?
4. Think of a time when you made a sacrificial choice for the sake of personal gratification rather than for the glory of God. How can we make sure that glorifying God is our genuine motivation?
5. Share some examples of Christlike love you've witnessed in your community this Christmas season.
6. Think of someone who needs your self-sacrificial love right now. Who is it, and what do you think you need to do for them?
7. What are some practical ways you can form habits of practicing self-sacrificial behaviors this week for God's glory?

Pray:

- *Heavenly Father, you have demonstrated the ultimate act of sacrificial love by sending us your Son, Jesus. This Advent season, we want to love the others so that they too can experience the love of Christ. Help us, through your Holy Spirit, to set our self importance aside so that we can love others in a truly self-sacrificial way, just as you have loved us. Amen.*