

## *Made to Worship (Part Three) Love*

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

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**Introduction:** Last week, we were introduced to the “manifestation of the Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:7), the supernatural unique gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows on each believer to bless others. This week we learn that spiritual gifts no matter how exciting and wondrous, are useless and even destructive if they are not motivated by love. The same Spirit that bestows these gifts is also the conduit for God pouring His love into our hearts (Romans 5:5). Only love can balance the tension in the Body of Christ between unity and diversity.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – Underline or highlight the words that are repeated or ideas that are emphasized.

Besides telling us what love looks like when it is lived out in human relationships, this passage gives us an incidental portrait of Jesus as the ultimate lover. Reread these verses substituting “Jesus” for “love”.

What fresh picture of Jesus' care do you gain through this exercise?

Why is love the ultimate solution to the divisions in Corinth or in any church?

How can love lead to healthy interdependence in our relationships rather than unhealthy independence or dependence?

Think of a person who has truly loved you. What are the marks of that person's way of relating to you?

## **Summary evaluation:**

- Are you eager for others to stop talking so you can speak? (1 Corinthians 14:29-32) Love will make us patient.
- Do you envy another's gifts? Love will replace that envy with purpose and contentment.
- Of what do you have to be proud? Love will replace pride with a desire to build up others (1 Corinthians 8:1b).
- Quick-tempered? Love has a long fuse, lets you take a deep breath.
- Holding a grudge? Love will let you forgive, lay that burden down.
- Tolerating sin in your life? Love delights in Truth, agrees with God about sin, repents.
- Hiding in your Small Group? Love will replace contentment in cliques with eyes that really "see" those around us.
- Given up on a relationship? Love never gives up, gives perseverance, will reconcile neglected relationships.
- Seeking to get even? Love would rather be wronged (1 Corinthians 6:7).
- Love endures forever, for "God is love" (1John 4:8). What else am I counting on to last forever?
- Maturity is not accomplished by the passing of time, but by intentionally "putting away" childish things. To what childish thoughts, words, or deeds am I clinging?

**Conclusion:** God's love poured into my heart (Romans 5:5) is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) that allows me to look beyond myself to fellowship with others and glorify God with the gifts He has given. Love leads me to Christ, lasts forever, and is a mark of maturity.