

Week 24 Discussion Questions

Text: 1 Cor 13 (This week's passage is focusing on verses 4-7.)

Icebreaker: What are some popular ideas about what love is? *(For bonus points, consider singing a few lyrics from a cheesy love song!)*

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out to you from the text or from the sermon you heard Sunday?

2. The description of love in verses 4-7 includes both what love is and of what love is not. How might the situation in the Corinthian church be different if they exhibited these traits more consistently?

Application: While they're all important, do you find some of these most essential for a healthy church? Why?

3. Acting in love is "a still more excellent way" (see 12:31) with regard to spiritual gifts. With verses 4-7 in mind, why is love essential even in a church where people have been wonderfully gifted by God's Spirit?

Application: Have you witnessed spiritually gifted people employing their gifts in ways that contrasted the kind of attributes in this passage? What happened?

4. Application: It's often pointed out that these descriptions of love are also descriptions of God. Pick one or two of these attributes and share about how God has displayed them in your life. For example, how have you experienced God's patience and kindness?

5. Application: Verse 7 includes the words "bears," "believes," "hopes," and "endures." Why is it important, as we think about life in the church, for love to include these kinds of rugged or resilient qualities?

How does this compare with the popular idea that love is primarily a feeling or emotion?