



## Review | What the World Needs

First Corinthians 13 has rightly been called the love chapter. Under the inspiration of the Spirit, Paul penned a beautiful hymn and portrait of Christian love. It's a picture of Christ. Love is the greatest manifestation of the Spirit because love never ends. One day faith will become sight and hope will be fulfilled. Our love will only grow. God defines love not vice versa. The Father has loved us well by sending his only Son. He loved us to the very end of giving his life. Now, he asks his disciples – his friends – to do the very same. When Christ loves through his body, it looks like 1 Corinthians 13.

1. The greatest gift is love.
2. Jesus loves us well.
3. Love the way Jesus loves you.

## Observation

### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12.31-13.1,13 | The greatest gift is love.

What had Paul just been writing the Corinthians about in 1 Cor 12:1-30? Why might the way the Spirit “gifts” a believer for caring for others in a body of believers prompt the need for reminders about unity and humility, and instruction about the more excellent way?

What topic does Paul transition to that reveals his idea of what the “more excellent way” is when it comes to gifts? (13:1) How does Paul’s contrast in v1 between what is loudly evident and what is lacking demonstrate the right approach to the gift of love?

How is love in the Scriptures about covenant faithfulness? (Deut 6) How is covenant faithfulness/love about both emotional affection and faithful action? (Hos 2:14-23)

Why might we say that faith, hope, and love make up the “fabric” of the life of a follower of Jesus? Why/ when will faith and hope no longer be part of that fabric, and yet love will remain?

Why is love the greatest of the three that abide? Why is love a gift? (1 John 4:7, 19)

### READ John 13.1-11 | Jesus loves us well.

Who and how does John say that Jesus was loving? (v1) How does Jesus’ love display covenant faithfulness? (Isa 42:1-4)

What does Jesus do? How do his actions display emotional affection and faithful action?

What was the context for this act of love? (John 13:2-3, 11) Why does the context magnify how well Jesus loves us?

How does Jesus’ washing become both a symbol and the reality of His love for His own? (vv6-10) How was Judas Iscariot perhaps washed by Jesus here, but not really “clean?”

How does this episode of Jesus washing the disciples' feet paint a small picture of what is really the entirety of the biblical story? What makes it such good news that Jesus loves us well?

How is Jesus loving us well an entirely different story than what so many understand about "religion?"

**READ John 15.12-17 | Love the way Jesus loves.**

Why does the story about Jesus loving us well not end there? (vv12, 17) How are abiding, loving, and obeying all wrapped up together for those who follow Jesus? (John 15:9-10)

How does Jesus characterize the way He loves? (v13) Who does Jesus say He loves?

How has Jesus changed the status of those He loves? What is the purpose of Jesus' love?

How can we love the way Jesus loves? How does loving the way Jesus does put into perspective the life and function of a church like the one in Corinth?

Why should we think not about, "What a good Christian I am," and more about "How can I love better?" Why might Paul have called love "the more excellent way?" (1 Cor 12:31)

## Application

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text? How did the Spirit move you to respond?
2. In one sentence, define the word "love." How do you think our culture would define "love"? What are some of the main ways we show our love for one another in community? How has that been most meaningful to you?
3. Does it surprise you that love is something Jesus had to command? Why or why not?
4. Who is our "one another"? How do our love for God and our love for one another go hand in hand?
5. How might thinking deeply on what Christ has done for us cause us to truly love others?
6. How is loving one another in the church essential to our witness to those outside the church? What needs to change about the way you love others so that you might be a better witness for Christ?

## Prayer

1. Pray that we would not lose heart continuing to show and share Christ's love in these days (2 Corinthians 4.1,16-18; Galatians 6.9).
2. Pray that God's people would return to our first love and do the works which we did at first (Revelation 2.4,5).
3. Pray that our leaders would see where God is working and join him (John 5.17-20).
4. Pray that homes around us would make room for Christ at their tables (Ephesians 3.16-19).
5. Praise Jesus for loving us well. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us more fully understand his love for us. Pray that our love would be transformed and abound for others as we remember Christ's love.

## Afterword & Response

- **ABOUT GOD** | What does this passage specifically teach about God?

- **ABOUT MYSELF** | What does this passage teach about myself?


- **NEXT STEPS** | What does this passage lead me to do next in response?



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