

1 Corinthians 13

sermon outline for congregation

Love – essential, enduring

- love is necessary (vv1-3)
- love is eternal (vv8-13)

Real life, real love (vv4-7)

- we will consider 3 items in the list: love a) is patient b) does not envy or boast c) is not resentful
- v5 – love “does not insist on its own way” – are you able to remain in relationships without insisting on your own way?

Our love, God’s love

- how do you measure up?
- how does God?

reflection questions

1. What attributes of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 are most natural for you? Which are most lacking?
2. Humans by nature are self centered – love overcomes that (so we love God and our neighbor as we love ourselves). How do we undermine our love when our self centered nature uses good qualities (kindness, generosity, etc.) with a hidden motive of some sort of personal gain? So long as you keep catching yourself having a selfish agenda, how can you be a loving person despite that reality?
3. vv1-3 make clear that even if we do great things, if we do them without love, then they are of no value. How does this work? If no one is perfect, does it mean it is impossible to ever do good? Does this inspire humility in you? Does it inspire a stronger effort to be rooted in love? Does it discourage you and take away any motivation for doing good?
4. Love believes and hopes (v7) – how does faith in God and hope in what God promises sustain a person to act with love in difficult times? Love endures – how do we endure through life with love?