

STUDY GUIDE WEEK 13



KEY VERSE OF WEEK 13

"Now these three remain: faith, hope and love--but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

CONTEXT

As we move into Chapter 13, Paul begins to move from discussing unity, to bringing their attention to "love". The Corinthians were using their spiritual gifts without understanding that the motivation to use them should come from love. And for our time together, I will add the word Godly love so that we don't misconstrue that word with the kind of love that gets put on display in rom-coms.

Paul has to explain to The Corinthians too what kind of love he is talking about.

Verse 4-8 Paul lists out how True love is characterized.

Love is patient, slow to anger, kind and gentle to all, unselfish, giving, truthful, honest, hopeful, encouraging, enduring, and will not end.

Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that without love as the motivator for using their spiritual gifts, their gifts were worthless. When all else fails, love never fails. Why? Because GOD IS LOVE. And Christ is IN us as Christ followers, to help us love in His strength...not ours. We can't love like the love Paul lists out in verse 4-8 without Christ at work within us. So if the Corinthians were to use their gifts in their own strength, they were doing it void of Christ's strength and in so doing...they were not loving.

At the end of the Chapter 13, Paul draws an analogy talking about mirrors. Large bronze mirrors were a common decor around Corinth, so they would have been used to looking at these mirrors. Now these "mirrors" would only offer a weak reflection of the one looking into it. Paul ends by saying when we look in a mirror we see only a reflection. It's a great analogy for how a person "sees" God. We have a limited view of God because we are unable to see Him face to face. We can see evidence of God but still there is an incomplete view of God while we are here on this side of Heaven. One day, we will see Him fully when we are in eternity with Him.

Paul went on to explain that their spiritual gifts were good, but they were not the forever. When we are face to face with Jesus, our spiritual gifts are not needed anymore. Our spiritual gifts are temporary on this side of heaven, but love is forever. It's a change of perspective to think about love as eternal and our gifts as temporary isn't it? Paul wanted The Corinthians to change their perspective on how they viewed their focus for life as well. He wanted to give them an eternal perspective in the way they lived their life.

What about you? How could that change your focus if instead of thinking about how you use your gifts now, you began to think about how you can use your gifts to love others and expand His Kingdom and not yours?

Praying for you, Sis!

Follow us on instagram @girlsministrycollective and use the #girlsministrycollective so we can cheer you on as you study with us in 1 Corinthians!



Abbie Johnson

GIRLS MINISTRY SPEAKER

"LOVE WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW"

1 CORINTHIANS 13

AABBIE TALKED ABOUT HOW THE CORINTHIAN CHRISTIANS HAD BECOME PRIDEFUL CONCERNING THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS WHICH CREATED DIVISIVENESS AMONGST THEM. HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THIS TAKE PLACE IN YOUR OWN LIFE?

PAUL EXPLAINED IN VERSES 1-3 OF CHAPTER 13 THAT IF LOVE IS NOT PRESENT WITH THE OTHER GIFTS THEY ARE WORTHLESS. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS?

ONE OF THE MOST FAMILIAR PASSAGES IN SCRIPTURE IS 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-13. WHICH ONE OF THESE QUALITIES DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST? WHY IS THAT?

READ MATTHEW 22:34-40. HOW DO YOU THINK JESUS' TWO COMMANDS ARE RELATED TO 1 CORINTHIANS 13.

GRAB SOME PAPER AND DRAW A HEART IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. AFTER YOU HAVE THOUGHT THROUGH #3, WRITE THE QUALITY OF LOVE YOU STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HEART. FINALLY, SPEND SOME TIME IN PRAYER ASKING GOD TO HELP STRENGTHEN YOURSELF IN THIS AREA. WRITE THE PRAYER AROUND THE HEART.

PRAY

Before you start to read the chapter of the week, ask The Lord to help you read His Word today. Ask Him to teach you today. Ask Him to see things in your own life you can't see. Ask Him to help you take what you read and apply it.

READ

What verses are you reading from today? _____

What version of the bible are you reading it in today? (Try reading it in 3 different translations. Circle the translations you are reading it in below.)

Formal Translations:

"word for word" translation

New American Standard
English Standard Version
Holman Christian Standard
Revised Standard Version
New RSV

Functional Translations:

"Thought for thought"

New International Version
New American Bible
Revised English Bible
Good News Bible
New Living Translation

Free Translations:

"A Paraphrase"

New English Bible
Living Bible
The Message

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Write out what is happening in the verses you read. Put it in your own words.

APPLY

Reflect on what you just read, and walk through these questions with Jesus.

Is there a sin I need to confess to Him and ask Him to forgive me?

Is there a truth that I need to believe today?

Is there a promise that I need to hear and hold on to today?

Is there something I need to ask The Lord to help me live differently because of what I just read?

QUESTIONS

What questions came up when you read the verses today? Were there words or customs that you didn't understand? Write those out. Those are important to not just pass over. Those are some of the ways He calls your attention to something you need to pay attention to in your own life.

PRAY/JOURNAL

Take some time to pray/journal after your time of reading. Ask God to change your heart so that you look more and more like Him and less and less like the world. Ask Him to break your heart for what breaks His heart. Ask Him to help you focus on Him and less on what is all around you.