



Love is a Feeling

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

SERMON SUMMARY

Lie: Love is a feeling

Truth: Love is a choice

Love is a series of choices that we make every day. Very few have a real idea of what love is, and today we'll look at 1 Corinthians 13 to understand what love is through God's eyes.

1) Love begins with a feeling

- Love can begin with a feeling, emotion, or attraction; there's nothing wrong with that (see Song of Solomon!)
- God created us with these deep feelings of attraction, and this is all good unless that's where love end.

- 2) Love requires action.
 - See 1 John 3:18. Love is a verb and requires intentional action.
 - See John 3:16. God showed His love for us by [action] sacrificing His son
 - To know if you're in love, then 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 must be acted upon
- 3) Love demands a choice.
 - We have to choose to choose. Choose to love someone and put aside your wants.
 - Sometimes love ebbs flows, some days you may not feel like you're in love yet you must still choose to love.
 - Sometimes it also means to choose to love our enemies (see Matthew 5:44-45).
 - And we must love God and serve him; these two go hand in hand.
- 4) Love is a joyful sacrifice.
 - a. We choose to love for the benefit of someone else.
 - b. When you love someone, there is a joy in sacrificing for them. The "have to do" mindset doesn't equate to love.
 - c. See Hebrews 12:1-2. There was joy in the sacrifice, because there's a joy on the other side.
- 5) Love means endurance.
 - a. Jesus endured the cross for us, as the ultimate act of love.
 - b. To love, means going the distance.
 - c. There is sacrificial endurance in love

DISCUSSION

Reminders for small group leaders:

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!
- Set aside a time to pray for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
- Regularly recap how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
- The teaching happened on Sunday at church. The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?
- Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming

hearts and lives.

RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?
- What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?
- How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?

QUESTIONS

Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss or make up your own!

Getting to know you:

- Who is someone in your life, that you love and how do you show them love?
- What is the difference between caring about someone and loving them?
- What things did you agree with or disagree with in the sermon?

Into the Bible:

- What do you think of 1 Corinthians 13:1-2? Do you agree or disagree with it?
 - Why is it important to have love even when doing good?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Which of these descriptions of love is hardest for you to demonstrate? Which is easiest?
- Read Matthew 5:44-45. Is there someone in your life that is hard to love? How can you choose to love them despite that?
- In what ways have others sacrificed for you? How have you sacrificed for others?
- How have you seen God's love demonstrated in your life?
- Read 1 John 3:18. How do you demonstrate your love towards your family? Your friends? Your small group? Your partner?
- How can you demonstrate your love towards God this week?
- Choose one aspect of love from 1 Corinthians to work on this week. How will you practically apply it? (you can choose to share with the group or think about it to yourself)
- Choose one person this week to demonstrate love towards. (you can choose to share with the group or think about it to yourself)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College:

- Fall Retreat is on October 18-20. Sign up at osuepic.com
- Epic large group is on Thursday at MU13

All church:

- We have a church app now! Go to the app store to download, search "Grant Avenue"
- Grant Ave's Fall Festival is on October 27th. Volunteers and candy are needed!