

The Greatest of These

1 Corinthians 13

October 24, 2021

A review of the importance of spiritual gifts in the context of our vision *to build a community in Christlikeness*.

Several cautions concerning spiritual gifts:

- Idolatry
- Pride
- Division

1 Corinthians 13

Love is greater

- Than any spiritual gift (vs 1-3)
- Than any selfish pursuit (vs 4-7)
- Than all that will disappear (vs 8-12)
- Than faith and hope (vs 13)

The Importance and Nature of True Hope

The Importance and Nature of True Faith

The Relationship between Faith, Hope, and Love

A biblical illustration of Faith, Hope, and Love – Luke 18:35-43

1. The Blind Man has Hope
2. The Blind Man's Hope is based on Faith
3. The Blind Man's Hope and Faith result in Love

Conclusion: Love is something both received and then given. Love is the greatest because it is the ultimate result of faith and hope. Let faith and hope fill you with God's love for one another, family members, and others God brings into your life.

Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Questions

1. After beginning with prayer, share with one another about any further thoughts you may have had about spiritual gifts.
2. Take time to read 1 Corinthians 13 slowly and privately a couple of times. Then, tell one another what word or phrase stands out to you, and why.
3. How does Paul's instruction in this chapter modify his instruction concerning spiritual gifts? Why is this an important chapter in the context?
4. Based on verses 1-3, speculate on how believers may use their gifts without love. Might you know of instances where this happens? What is the result of using ministry gifts without love?
5. Discuss the value of memorizing a short passage like 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. (Individually, consider focusing attention on these verses this week and then follow-up with discussion about the effect, next week.)
6. Read the illustration of faith, hope and love from Luke 18:35-43. Discuss how each of these worked in the experience of the blind man to produce love.
7. Share your thoughts on how hope is based on faith, how together they produce love, and why love is the greatest gift.
8. Pray for one another based on the lesson and needs...