



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, December 18, 2022

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – Love for the Common Good

1 Corinthians 13 reminds us of the necessity and preeminence of love (v. 1-3), the character of love (v. 4-7), and the permanence of love (v. 8-13). The familiarity of these verses may cause us to overlook their meaning and impact. We must, however, pay close attention to the divine imperative to love others according to the character of God.

Love others according to who they are.

Love others according to where they are.

We respond and apply the word of God that we have heard by loving rightly.

May you keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So may you say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” Above all, may you love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. May you offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. May each of you use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, may you do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, may you do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Discussion Questions:

- What are our typical responses to reading about God’s *agape* love in 1 Corinthians 13? Why is it important to consider love for others as a divine command?
- What is the relation between love and the spiritual gifts?
- How can we personalize verses 4-7? How should we evaluate ourselves in light of verses 4-7?
- In what ways do people define, receive, or express love? Why is it important to understand these different “love languages”?
- Why is it important to not keep score of how we are loving others, to address the root causes of unloving behavior, and to look to be satisfied in love in the Lord?