

The More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 13

Waterbrooke exists to explore, to embody, and to expand redemptive community in the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the praise of His glory.

The church is God's chosen instrument where Christ does his miraculous work of changing people through the mechanism of gospel application within community into a people who love one another as God in Christ has loved them.

The church is the family where we grow up and learn to love like Jesus.

1. Love Is the Point - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

God's Primary Purpose in His Distribution of the Spiritual Gifts is Require Us to Learn to Love One Another to the Glory of His Name.

Things That Don't Matter Without Love:

- Impactful Speech
- Insight into God's Word
- Courageous Faith
- Sacrificial Generosity

Christ didn't do all that He did simply to save you from your sin. Christ saved you to be in relationship with God forever and to be in relationship with one another showing and sharing the love of God.

2. Learning to Love Is a Process - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful. it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but

rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Gospel Culture Can Only Flourish When My Focus is On The Struggle in My Heart to Love Others Rather Than My Need to See Others Change.

Problem people reveal to me the problems of my own heart.

“If my sinfulness appears to me to be in any way smaller or less detestable in comparison with the sins of others, I am still not recognizing my sinfulness at all. ... How can I possibly serve another person in unfeigned humility if I seriously regard his sinfulness as worse than my own?” Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

- Love is patient.
- Love is kind.

“With Christ, our sins and weaknesses are the very resume items that qualify us to approach him. Nothing but coming to him is required— first at conversion and a thousand times thereafter until we are with him upon death.” Dane Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly

- Love does not envy or boast.

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” 1 Corinthians 4:7

- Love does not arrogant or rude.

“How is it that people who are quite obviously eaten up with Pride can say they believe in God and appear to themselves very religious? I am afraid it means they are worshiping an imaginary God. They theoretically admit themselves to be nothing in the presence of this phantom God, but are really all the time imagining how He approves of them and thinks them far better than ordinary people: that is, they pay a pennyworth of imaginary humility to Him and get out of it a pound's worth of Pride towards their fellow-men.” CS Lewis, Mere Christianity

- Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.
- Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

3. Love is Perfection - 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

“Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

The Christian life is not simply about saving your soul from sin. The Christian life is entering into the life of God for eternity. It is progressing into an eternal communion of love to the glory of God (just like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.)