



## 1 Corinthians: Love Builds Up A More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3  
Pastor Chris Lenhart – January 10, 2021

Introduction:

**The Key Question of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians:** *How do we live as disciples of Jesus and function together as his Church in an overwhelmingly unbelieving world?*

*Why start in 1 Corinthians 13?*

### The More Excellent Way (12:31)

*From the biblical perspective, excellence is a way of life. The way of love. Love that is unconditional, love that follows the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

### Speaking without Love (13:1)

*We can say a lot of spiritually sounding words without being loving.*

### Knowing without Love (13:2)

*We can know much spiritual truth, and even demonstrate our faith, without being loving.*

### Doing without Love (13:3)

*We can participate in a lot of spiritual activities without being loving.*

*How might our lives look in light of these realities?*

**Next Week: 1 Cor. 13:4 – Patient & Kind**

### Supporting Scripture

1 Cor. 1-13  
1 Cor. 13:13

1 Jn. 4:7-8

Mt. 6:1-5  
Mt. 6:16-18a

Mt. 9:13  
Mic. 6:8  
Gal. 5:14

Follow along with today's sermon using your smartphone. Download the "CMBC" app (search for "Calvary Monument" in your app store) and click on "Sundays" at the bottom of the screen.

<p>1 Corinthians: Love Builds Up  <b>A More Excellent Way</b>  Growing together in a Greater Love -- Discipleship Guide</p>	<p><b>1 Cor. 12:31-13:3</b></p>
<p><b>Get together as a family or with a friend or group of friends this week!</b></p> <p>Start with <b>Prayer</b> -ask Jesus to guide your time together. Go over prayer requests together.</p> <p><b>Read the Text</b> -read the text together. (1 Cor. 12:31-13:3)</p> <p><b>Discussion Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The book of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians answers the broad question: "How do we live as disciples of Jesus and function together as his Church in an overwhelmingly unbelieving world?" Why is this an important question for believers today?</li> <li>2. What are some definitions of excellence that you have heard or seen in the culture? How does the biblical perspective of excellence differ from the world's perspective?</li> <li>3. What are some ways that we might speak without love?</li> <li>4. What does Paul mean when he says, "If I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."? How can one demonstrate their faith without being loving?</li> <li>5. Read Micah 6:8, Matthew 9:13, Galatians 5:14 and 1 Corinthians 13:3 in order. How might we participate in activities that would be considered spiritual without love? How do we sometimes flip the order words in Matthew 9:13 and put sacrifice above and before mercy?</li> </ol> <p><b>Questions towards Spiritual Growth &amp; Discipleship:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does this text challenge you to grow in a greater love for God?</li> <li>2. How are you motivated to grow in a greater love for others?</li> <li>3. How might Jesus be motivating you apply some of the principles from this passage to your family, career, community, or church?</li> <li>4. How might Jesus be using you to draw those that do not know him, unto himself?</li> <li>5. How will you pray for each other between now and next time you meet?</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>Supporting Scripture</u></b></p> <p>1 Cor. 1-13  1 Cor. 13:13  1 Jn. 4:7-8  Mt. 6:1-5  Mt. 6:16-18a  Mt. 9:13  Mic. 6:8  Gal. 5:14</p> <p><b><u>Prayer Requests</u></b></p> <p>Family</p> <p>Church</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Career/Friends</p> <p>Other</p>