

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 13:1–7

August 15, 2021

DISCUSSION 1: REVIEW OF GIFTS (1 Cor. 12)

1. What are some lessons believers might learn through this understanding of the diversity of the Body and our interdependence in 1 Cor. 12?
2. Why should we view every “member of the body” and every gift as significant and valuable? How might this encourage us but also protect us from pride?
3. Are there things we should do to be careful not to esteem some people and gifts as “better” or downplay some people and gifts as less important?
4. What are ways you are using your gifts to be a healthy part or member in the Body of Christ?
5. What are ways you are benefitted from or growing from the service, ministry, or gifts of others in the Body of Christ?

DISCUSSION 2: LOVE

1. Why does Paul say the things in 13:1-3 are empty are as nothing if there is not love?
2. What are some false notions of love? What are some of the biblical characteristics of love?
3. Why do you think Paul inserted a whole chapter on the importance of love for one another at this place in the letter?
4. Why is the message of love, and especially of Christians prioritizing their love towards others, so important for the Church at all times and in all places?

DISCUSSION 3: LIVING OUT LOVE

1. Which of the descriptions or characteristics of love in 13:4-7 do you struggle with the most?
2. How is looking to Jesus helpful to see what love looks like in action?
3. How is considering how God has loved us helpful in motivating us to give the kind of love we’ve received? Is there one specific aspect of God’s love in this section you especially need to meditate on, either to believe he loves you that way and/or to help you love others that way?
4. What do you need to do this week to better live a life of love as described in 1 Cor. 13?