

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 13:8–13

August 22, 2021

DISCUSSION 1: REVIEW OF LOVE (1 Cor. 13:1-7)

1. What are some false notions of love? What are some of the biblical characteristics of love?
2. Why do you think Paul inserted a whole chapter on the importance of love for one another at this place in the letter?
3. Which of the descriptions or characteristics of love in 13:4-7 do you struggle with the most?
4. 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?
5. What is one thing you can do this week to actively cultivate love, or one aspect of love, as it's described in 1 Cor. 13:1-7?

DISCUSSION 2: FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

1. How does the enduring nature of love help us see its preeminence over specific gifts or abilities (13:8)?
2. What do you think Paul is trying to communicate by emphasizing the abiding nature of faith, hope, and love?
3. Read Col. 1:4-5. How do faith, hope, and love relate to one another?
4. It's easy to overlook faith, hope, and love, so how do we intentionally cultivate these and allow the gospel to produce them in our lives?
5. Why should Christian love be a key part of how we evaluate our maturity?