

# **SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE**

## **1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS**

### **1 Corinthians 14:1–12**

**August 29, 2021**

#### **DISCUSSION 1: REVIEW OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE (1 Cor. 13:8-13)**

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?

#### **DISCUSSION 2: GIFTS FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS**

1. How does chapter 13 and the opening phrase of 14:1 help us again connect the priority of love with our pursuit of spiritual gifts? Why is this so important?
2. Why does Paul say that prophecy is greater than tongues (14:5)? What does Paul say are the purposes of any manifestations of the Spirit (14:12)? How does this remind us about the way we should think about the value of gifts?
3. Read Eph. 4:11-16. What do you notice in this parallel passage about the purpose of the roles and gifts within the church? How does this help you think about why God has given you spiritual gifts and how or why he wants use to use them?
4. What are ways we might misuse our gifts, skills, and abilities rather than using them to serve others? How do we guard our hearts so that our gifts from God don't become about us?