

# LOVE CONNECTION

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## 1 CORINTHIANS 13

### MAIN TAKEAWAY

Love is the defining mark of the Christian. We are to receive the love of God and imitate it—a superior love that acts and endures forever.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Name a few ways you have heard the word *love* used in the past week. What does this reveal about the way people typically view love? How might our culture define love differently from God?**

**1 Corinthians 13 is typically called the “love chapter” in the Bible. Why do you think Paul chose to talk to the church about this “love connection”?**

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

#### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1–8

***The superiority of love (v.1–3).* What kind of love is superior? What is it superior to, and why? How can you know when something is done in love?**

**How do these verses challenge your motives in serving God and others?**

**What happens if people are not motivated to use their spiritual gifts out of love?**

***What love is and is not (v.4–6).* What is *agape* love? How is this different from other kinds of love? How can you better understand the nature of true love by knowing what love *is not*?**

**How might people misinterpret God's love? Pastor Tony explained that people confuse God's patience with apathy, impotence, or approval. What is wrong with each of these thoughts? What is the purpose of God's loving patience (2 Peter 3:9)?**

***What love does (v.7).* In what way does love consist of both feelings and actions? What may happen if only one is expressed?**

**What might a church community look like if everyone truly embodied the love described in this passage?**

***How love endures (v.8).* How does God's love compare to our human experiences of love? How have you come to know enduring love in Christ?**

**How does the description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 reflect the character of God? How is *agape* love most fully seen in Christ?**

## **APPLICATION**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**From 1 Corinthians 13, which characteristic of love do you find most encouraging or needed in your life right now? How can you grow in your love for God and for others (Matthew 22:37-40)?**

**Replace the word *love* with *your name* in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Where do you see room for growth? Which characteristic of love do you find most challenging or convicting?**

**Where is true *agape* love demonstrated (Romans 5:8)? How does the gospel encourage us to love like this (Ephesians 5:1-2)?**

## **PRAYER**

Thank God for His love. Pray that you will have a love connection—to love God and others. Ask for strength when it is hard to love, and humility to receive love from others. Pray that our church will live out 1 Corinthians 13 together and be a witness of Christ's love to the world (John 13:34-35).