

And I will show you a still more excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:31b

I. A life lived for God cannot be _____ of love for others.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. 13:1-3

**MISUSING THE GIFTS TO GET ATTENTION
CHAPTER 14**

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. 14:26

Is your love for others _____ with your love for God?

FIRST
CORINTHIANS
13-14

II. The love you give others looks like the love you've _____ from Christ.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 13:4-7

Is your love for others _____ on their love for you?

III. The more excellent way of love _____ us to live for what lasts.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 13:8-13

Is your view of what lasts _____ you to love people more?

UNDIVIDED

DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13—14. Why is love hard to define but easy to recognize?

2. Which of the aspects of love in 13:4-7 do you find hardest to practice consistently, and why?

3. Why is it impossible to love others in our own flesh apart from the Source of love? What does this mean for our everyday lives?

4. How does Paul use the analogy of a child and a mirror to show how we should develop in our understanding of spiritual matters (13:11-12)?

5. What are some “childish ways” you need to put aside to better mature in your faith?

6. What insight did this sermon provide you in an area of your life where you sense the Spirit of God desiring to mature you?

“*Agapē* is one of the rarest words in ancient Greek literature, but one of the most common in the New Testament. Unlike our English love, it never refers to romantic or sexual love, for which *erōs* was used, and which does not appear in the New Testament. This chapter is itself the best definition of *agapē*. The problem is that few people have any idea of what true love is. Most people, including many Christians, seem to think of it only in terms of nice feelings, warm affection, romance and desire. When we say, ‘I love you,’ we often mean, ‘I love me and I want you.’ ... *Agapē* love is above all sacrificial. It is sacrifice of self for the sake of others, even for others who may care nothing at all for us and who may even hate us. It is not a feeling but a determined act of will, which always results in determined acts of self-giving. Love is the willing, joyful desire to put the welfare of others above our own. It leaves no place for pride, vanity, arrogance, self-seeking or self-glory. ... Only love qualifies giving to be spiritual. Jesus’ command to give secretly (Matt 6:3) helps protect us from being tempted by some of those false, unspiritual, and unloving motives. When persecution of the early church became intense, some believers actually sought martyrdom as a way of becoming famous or of gaining special heavenly credit. But when sacrifice is motivated by self-interest and pride it loses its spiritual value. Even accepting agonizing death for the faith profits nothing if it is done without true divine love. No matter how much a person may suffer because of his Christian service and testimony, he has no spiritual gain if his witness and work are not ministered in love. The loveless person produces nothing, is nothing, and gains nothing.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

EXERCISE FOR THIS WEEK

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Write out this passage, substituting Jesus’ name wherever you see the word *love*.

Now read the passage again, noting any insights regarding the love Jesus demonstrated during His ministry on Earth.

If you were to rewrite the passage one more time, could you insert your own name in any of the places where you placed Jesus’ name? How can this passage shed light on the love you most often demonstrate toward others? What can you ask the Lord in regard to changing that?

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you’d like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. That’s a great spot to see what’s coming up!

LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY? YOU’RE JUST IN TIME FOR FALL HOME GROUPS! Home groups are one of the best ways to find community at Christ Chapel as you grow in your faith and study the Bible. Stop by the home groups table outside your worship venue to join one today. Groups will be kicking off with the start of our fall series on Sunday, Oct. 3. Psst! Are you a young couple looking for a home group? Join us for a special home group gathering and dinner on Monday, Sept. 27. Email Anna at AnnaC@christchapelbc.org to learn more and RSVP.

BE A PART OF TODAY’S AFGHANISTAN CONVERSATION. If you’d like to help welcome Afghan refugees to the area, join Local Outreach Pastor Lance Cashion and the Executive Director of DASH (a Christ Chapel ministry partner) for a conversation online at 7 p.m. You’ll learn how DASH serves asylum seekers in Jesus’ name, have time to ask questions and pray for the Afghan people. Sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/afghanistan to get the event link.

LADIES, LEARN ABOUT MENTORING AT THIS SATURDAY’S SIDE BY SIDE WORKSHOP. Come and learn the ins and outs of the mentoring process so you can help another woman walk deeper in her relationship with God this Saturday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. You can learn more and sign up for the workshop at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

SIGN UP FOR NEXT SUNDAY’S LUNCH WITH A MISSIONARY! Have lunch with CCBC Global Missions next Sunday, Sept. 19 at 12:30 p.m. and meet a church planter who serves in one of the world’s largest cities. Our guest has a unique perspective on building the Church in a country that’s hostile to the gospel—you’ll be amazed and encouraged by what you hear. Seating is limited so save your spot now at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

REGISTER FOR THE WOMEN’S FALL PRAYER RETREAT. Life is hectic, days are noisy and unprecedented situations seem never-ending—that’s why the women of Christ Chapel are getting away for an overnight prayer retreat. Get out of town Friday, Sept. 24 and Saturday, Sept. 25 and spend time resting and talking with God. There’s more to know about the retreat so head to www.ccbcfamily.org/events to read on and register.

GROW YOUR FAITH AND THE NEXT GENERATION WITH CHILDREN’S MINISTRY!

Serving in Children’s Ministry on Sundays is a chance to build authentic friendships, grow deeper in your faith and show kids that Jesus loves them. Stop by the Children’s Ministry display in the Great Room or Atrium today to sign up.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU’D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—just text “CCBCFW” to 833-422-7200 to get started.