

STATIC ATTRACTION



2014
Prime
Groups

The Point: Shocking Truth: Love Looks Like Doing (not feeling)

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Facing Anger in the Face

- What stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be funny, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- Other than family, who is the first person you remember saying "I love you" to? What did you think love was all about when you were a kid?
- How would you say love is defined in our American culture? Would you say love is defined in other ways in other cultures around the world? How? How would you say love is often displayed in church cultures?
- "Love **is** a big deal" was the first part of the point on Sunday. **Read I Corinthians 13:1-3** as a refresher.

✓ **Describe** how important you might think you or someone else would feel if you or they could speak all 6,900 plus languages on earth plus speak in the language of angels.

✓ **How** important do you think you would feel and be if you could foretell the future, know all that God was going to do, and have so much faith that you could tell a mountain to move and it would?

✓ **How** holy and self-sacrificing do you think you would feel if you gave everything you owned to others or even more so gave you life for what you believe?

✓ **Accomplishment** through knowledge, wisdom, foresight, powerful faith, and sacrifice is really a summary of what Paul references here. What do you think the common factor is between those things and why are they different from love?

✓ **Why** do you think that Paul says love is far more important than any of these?

• Love **is not** a feeling, but it is a choice. **Read John 21:15-17.** Jesus asks Peter three times repeatedly whether Peter loved Him or not. Remember this is after Peter denied Jesus three separate times.

• Do you think when Peter denied Jesus that he proved to the world present and future that he didn't love Jesus? Why or why not?

• Do you think Jesus knew whether Peter loved him or not when He was asking Peter? Why or why not?

• How does Jesus respond each of the three times that Peter replies saying that he loves Jesus? How do you think that is significant and how does that relate to love not being a feeling but rather a choice?

• Love **is not** cliché. The phrase "I love you" gets thrown around a lot and even with the best of intentions sometimes loses real meaning. Why do you think that is? **Read I John 3:16-18.** Here John writes about love for others and responding to those in need. Specifically in relation to helping others, John writes "you show love for others by truly helping them." What do you think "truly helping them" looks like?

• Love does. **Read I Corinthians 13: 4-7.** (*Leaders: Read each of the descriptors of love on the left and then the related question on the right.*)

Is patient & kind

• How hard is this when it comes to loving others?

Is not jealous, boastful, proud, or rude

• What do you think Paul means here?

Doesn't demand its own way

• How have you see conditions being put on love?

Is not easily angered & keeps no records of wrong

• Speak for your self only on this. How hard is this and how often do you do this?

Doesn't delight in evil, but rejoices when truth wins

• Do you ever find yourself saying, "they deserved it"? Why isn't that love?

Protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres

• Describe these descriptions of love in your own words.

LOVE

Next page for last questions»

•**Read John 13:34-35.** How did Jesus love us? How well do you think the church throughout history has done with this command from Jesus? Why do you think that? What do you think is at stake if we do not follow this command from Jesus?

Bible Verses

I Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT)

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

John 21:15-17 (NLT)

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep.

I John 3:16-18 (CEV)

We know what love is because Jesus gave his life for us. This is why we must give our lives for each other. If we have all we need and see one of our own people in need, we must have pity on that person, or else we cannot say we love God. Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.

I Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

John 13:34-35 (MSG)

"Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."