

1 Corinthians 13

Community Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question: *What is an opinion that you hold that makes others react in disbelief?*

Ask them: *How hard has this voting season been for you?*

Tell them: While election stress disorder is a real thing, Pastor Michael reminded us all that for the believer the most important decision isn't who is going to represent you. The most important decision is who you are going to represent. When you represent Jesus Christ, you are going to do one thing well, and that is to love. Of course, love is open to interpretation isn't it?

Ask them: *How much love do you see being expressed in our current political climate on TV, on social media, etc.? Why do you think that is the case? (That there isn't much love during election season.)*

Ask them: *How does how you define love now differ from how you defined love when you were younger?*

Tell them: This week we looked at God's definition of love in 1 Corinthians:

13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **13:2** And if I have prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **13:3** If I give away everything I own, and if I give over my body in order to boast, but do not have love, I receive no benefit.

13:4 Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag; it is not puffed up. **13:5** It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. **13:6** It is not glad about injustice but rejoices in the truth. **13:7** It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

13:8 Love never ends. But if there are prophecies, they will be set aside; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be set aside.

13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, **13:10** but when what is perfect comes, the partial will be set aside.

13:11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. But when I became an adult, I set aside childish ways.

13:12 For now we see in a mirror indirectly, but then we will see face to face.

Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known.

13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. (Gen. 13:1-13)

Tell them: As followers of Christ, it is essential that we define love, so that we know if we are loving. A good way to do that is to think about what the opposite of love is. Pastor Michael gave us this list. We can act in one of two ways, the first is loving the second is the opposite. We can act in:

- a. Patience or impatience
- b. Kindness or meanness
- c. Generosity or envy
- d. Bragging or humility
- e. Politeness or rudeness
- f. Selflessness or self-serving
- g. With contentment or resentment
- h. Bearing or burdening
- i. Belief or cynicism
- j. Endurance or quitting

Ask them: *How might thinking about these opposing words help you better define whether or not you are choosing/voting/deciding the way of love?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said he and his family were reading “*The 5 love languages.*” **Ask them:** *Have any of you read that book?* **Tell them:** Pastor Michael summarized the love languages in taco terms:

Words of Affirmation: Your tacos are delicious

Acts of Service: I made you tacos

Gifts: Here’s your taco

Quality Time: Let’s go for tacos together

Physical Touch: Let me hold you like a taco.

Ask them: *Which of these is your love language?*

Ask them: *Do you find it hard to feel loved and/or to love when you don’t receive love in your love language?*

Ask them: *What are some ways that we self-sabotage receiving love?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that we often sabotage loving acts from people because they didn’t love us the way we receive love.

Ask them: *What do you think of that idea?*

Tell them: When we love for what we get out of it, we end up feeling empty because people are broken. If we love because God first loved us, we cannot be destroyed by other's lack of love for us because we have the love of God.

Unfortunately, we often don't love because we feel like we deserve the result we had planned on and aren't getting. This perspective puts God in a Magic 8-Ball that we keep shaking to get the answer we want and then set aside when don't get the answers we want. Ultimately, that moves us into the place of God.

Ask them: *In what ways do we often play God when things aren't going as we want them to?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said what is required of us all is not selfish love that loves for what we get out of it but sacrificial love. Sacrificial love loves with no retweets or billboards bragging about how great a lover or giver we are. Sacrificial love is taking the critique and not giving it back. It is being there for someone that hasn't been there for you.

Ask them: *Why do you think this kind of love is so difficult for most of us? (fairness, revenge, being taken advantage of, etc.)*

Tell them: Pastor Michael gave us Philippians 4:13 as hope for loving even when others don't love us: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* **Ask them:** *How do you think this idea plays out in relationship to people who are hard to love? How does knowing Christ make it easier for you to love the unloveable?*

Tell them: Each of us has a daily decision to make that is even more important than who we voted for; We have the decision to be loving or not, to be selfish or selfless. The opposite of love is selfishness. God's command for us all is to love one another, to be selfless. **Ask them:** *In what ways are you willing to make a change to respond in love rather than selfishness?*

Tweetable Quotes

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