

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

"Love Is..."

Scripture: I Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13



Love is...

AUTHOR

The apostle, Paul, formerly Saul, a persecutor of Christians, was converted on the road to Damascus and became a preacher for Christ. Paul was trained as a Pharisee, was a tentmaker, and went on 3 missionary journeys. He is known for the letters he wrote to various churches, which became part of the New Testament.

CONTEXT

Paul wrote I Corinthians as a letter to the church in Corinth around AD 55 during his 3rd missionary journey. Paul had established this church on his 2nd missionary journey. The Christians at Corinth were surrounded by corruption and sin and their faith was being tried. Paul's goal was to address the problems the church was dealing with, heal divisions and answer questions, as well as confront their sin. Paul writes that he will show the Corinthians a way of life that is best of all and in chapter 13, Paul defines real love.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Three things will last forever – faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Paul describe love in I Corinthians 13:4-6?
2. Read I John 4:7-8. What does verse 8 describe as an attribute of God?
3. Love is a choice and an action and our love should be like God's love. How do you show your love for God in the choices you make and the actions you take? Have you shown love to someone who is difficult or during difficult circumstances? How challenging was it? What are other examples where you have seen love in action?
4. What does I Peter 4:8 advise us to do?
5. God's kind of love is directed outward toward others, not inward toward ourselves. See I Corinthians 10:24 and Philippians 2:4. What opportunities might you have this week to express love as Jesus did? Read Philippians 2:5 -Does this challenge you when dealing with people?
6. When does love rejoice? (I Corinthians 13:6) Also see 2 John 1:4 and 3 John 1:3-4.
7. How does Paul describe love in I Corinthians 13:7? What does I Peter 1:22 advise?
8. What does Paul say will last forever? (I Corinthians 13:13)

download Growth Guides at mttaborumc.org/growthguide