

LOVE

Finding a Love That Lasts

November 17, 2024



Love is Not Envious

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NIV)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Sermon Summary:

Relationships are hard. In today's me-first world of instant gratification, cancel culture and no-fault divorce, it seems almost impossible to find a true love. Friendships fracture, families fight and romances fizzle. Is finding a love that lasts simply a figment of the imagination that is found in fairytales?

Could it be that love is being looked for in the wrong places? Rather than looking outward to others for a love that endures, we need to learn to live out a love that lasts.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4, one simple yet profound verse, the Apostle Paul gives four clear personal actions that create a lasting love.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. If you could have any vehicle you want, what would you choose?
2. If you could trade places with any person (celebrity, sports figure, etc.), who would you choose? Why?
3. If you could have ability/skill that you don't currently have, what would it be?
4. What is one thing that makes you unique compared to anyone else in the room?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. Why is the context of Chapter 13 important to understanding what Paul is saying about love?
2. Why are good actions cancelled out when love is not present?
3. Explain James 4:1-3 in your own words.
4. When James was talking about envy, why do you think he used extreme expressions like "you kill to get" and "you start a fight" to get?

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5. Proverbs 14:30 (NIV) says, A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones! How does envy “rot the bones”?
6. What other passages in the Bible speak about envy?

Application Questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, “Love is a process?” Share an example from your own life to explain your answer.
2. How does envy cause problems in relationships?
3. Can envy ever be used in a positive way in a person’s life?
4. Which of the following characteristics of envy do you struggle with the most:
 - Refusing to celebrate another person’s success
 - Finding themselves unhappy when others around them have success
 - Finding joy when other people experience setbacks or failure
 - Frequently scrutinizing or judging what other people are doing
 - Constantly downplaying or diminishing the success of others
 - Becoming upset when people compliment others’ hard work
 - Offering fake compliments when talking about other people
 - Spreading rumors or false information about other people
 - Attempting to copy or compete with the person they are envious of
5. Four ways of eliminating envy from your life were identified. Which one do you need to focus on the most this week?
 - Stop comparing yourself to others
 - Recognize your uniqueness
 - Practice your personal gratitude
 - Refocus your perspective