



# GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

1 Corinthians 13

## Part 2

### Group Discussion Guide

H

#### HIGHLIGHT

Read **1 Corinthians 13:8-13** aloud.

E

#### EXPLAIN

In verses 1-7 Paul talks about the priority and the principles of love. If you want to know what love looks like read those verses. The context of love is centered around spiritual gifts. These gifts are called the “manifestation gifts” or “sign gifts.” These gifts are different than the motivational gifts mentioned in Romans 12.

The only permanent gift we find in chapter 12-14 is love and love is *not* a gift. Love is an attitude. This is *not* referring to success. Love does not guarantee that when applied properly that success will come. Love does not always win in the usual sense. Sometimes we love and get hurt. Love wins in the long term.

We are not talking about the character and attributes of God nor are we denying the work of the Holy Spirit! For example, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*” (Hebrews 13:8) and “*For I am the LORD, I do not change;*” (Malachi 3:6). At some point prophecy and knowledge will vanish away but the gift of tongues will cease. Every gift will fail, fall, wither, and decay but love will never fail!

Christ has left us on this earth to grow and mature in our faith (vs. 11). These are the training wheels of life for what is to come.

One moment we are on living in the state of sanctification but the next moment we will be living in glorification. Right now we look into a dim mirror. That mirror is marred because of sin but one day we will look into a perfect mirror. The perfect mirror will be the image of Christ.

Christ has paid the ransom for us. Christ has paid the ultimate prices to come and get us.

What we do for Christ will never be greater than what Christ has already done for us. What we do for others will never be greater than what Christ has already done for them.

## APPLICATION

Go back and read 1 Corinthians 12:31. According to that verse, what should the reader be anticipating in chapter 13?

The church at Corinth started well, but was sidetracked. Have you, like the Corinthians, ever trusted in your talents and abilities, at the expense of actually loving others?

Love is not a formula or transaction wherein if you love someone, you will have success in that relationship. Have you ever experienced a time where you did all the right things, but afterward felt used or rebuffed?

Reflect on your own life, and write down one example of your “putting childish ways behind you.”

Why do you believe Paul puts such high value on faith, hope, and love in verse 13?

What is the main take away from 1 Corinthians 13? How can you apply this take away from chapter 13 to your life this week?

## RESPOND

Praise God for that He shows us His love and kindness, even when we do not deserve it. Thank him that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Ask him for the grace to not depend on our works, but on His finished work on the cross. Repent of those times that you’ve tried to earn salvation by your own works. Pray for many more people to be worshippers of the one true God.

