



Week of April 14
1 Corinthians 13¹

Overview

Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses needs and problems specific to that local church. But for a 2000-year-old letter, many of the topics will ring true to us today as well. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism were obvious in 1st Century Corinth and are also rampant in our 21st century world. Paul cares deeply about both right living and right thinking for Christians, and so should we. Read the letter with a view toward Paul's primary purposes: the health and "building up" of the body of Christ, and actions which further the gospel. Keeping these themes in mind will help you understand the "why" behind Paul's guidance and admonitions to the Corinthian Christians.

Group Objectives

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We are All for Jesus.*** Jesus saves us from our past, remakes us to be like him, heals our broken places, and is coming back as our king. Only Jesus is worthy of our allegiance, and worldly division has no place for those who follow him.

Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- In your life, who has shown you love? How has it impacted you?

Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week?
- How were you able to join God on mission?

¹ This discussion guide was written by Elaine Rodeck and edited by Dawn Gentry. For additional content, see the [sermon online](#) and the reading plan [found here](#).

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

In chapter 13, Paul writes to the church at Corinth about love. In many cultures, this chapter is associated with wedding ceremonies during which this passage is read. However, at the time that Paul wrote this letter, he was focused on a different kind of love. Agape love is a kind of sacrificial love that places the interests of others before ourselves. This is the kind of love Jesus expressed when he died on the cross for our sins so that we could have eternal life if we believe in Him.

Read 1 Corinthians 13

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- Why do you think Paul wrote this passage to the Corinthians, especially in light of some of the problems he addressed earlier in the letter?
- What do you find most convicting?
- What do you find most encouraging?
- Please read verses 4-7.
 - How might you respond differently if you consistently loved this way?
- What actions might God be calling you to take in response to this passage?

Reach One More Practice

- This week pray that God would reveal how to love your “one more” in the same way that Jesus loves us. Consider practical and/or secret “serving” opportunities.
 - Next week, share with the group how God showed up.
- What are you learning about yourself in this season?
 - What are you learning about God?

Prayer Prompts

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
 - *Jesus, we love you. May we always love others in the way that you love us. Help us to proclaim your gospel and put the needs of others first. Amen.*

For further study

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org.
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>
- Right Now Media Series – “Bible Backroads” – great background on Corinth, suitable for families: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/806863>
- Ben Witherington, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*
- NT Wright, *1 Corinthians* (N. T. Wright *For Everyone* commentary series)
- Anthony Thiselton, *1 Corinthians: A Shorter Exegetical and Pastoral Commentary*

Some copies of these books may be available at the CCC resource booth to purchase on-site.