

Week 29 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you had to relocate and move far away, where would it be?

1 Corinthians 8 ~ 1 Cor 9 ~ 1 Cor 10 ~ 1 Cor 11 ~ 1 Cor 12

1. Although food being sacrificed to idols may not be an issue in most churches today (it can be in some non-Western churches), what debatable issues can divide and distract churches where you live? What truth stands out to you in 1 Corinthians 8 on how to build and maintain unity among Christian brothers and sisters?
 2. Paul references apostles and believers having the right to have a “believing wife” (1 Corinthians 9:5, which connects to 1 Corinthians 7:39). Why is genuine Christian faith the one prerequisite for a Christian in marriage? What struggles will come if there is no common faith in Christ?
 3. While some churches and denominations practice “tent making” (i.e. pastors don’t get a salary but work in a secular field as Paul did in tent making), how does 1 Corinthians 9 make the case for paid Gospel ministry? What are the dangers and challenges that come with paying pastors and church staffs? What are the advantages to paying pastors and staffs? What are the advantages of pastors and staffs serving voluntarily or part-time?
 4. What spiritual acts of discipline help us serve the Lord well (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)?
 5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-13. What forms of idolatry (prioritizing something or someone more than God, pursuing pleasure and avoiding suffering outside of God) do we see today? Why do we need the exhortation of 1 Corinthians 10:12?
 6. What do you run from? Why? Why are we told to “flee from idolatry” (1 Corinthians 10:14)? How do we practically do that?
 7. How can you apply 1 Corinthians 10:31 to your daily life?
 8. Can we say the same as Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1? In what ways? In what ways can we improve?
 9. God has created men and women equal in value and worth but different in role and functions in the church, family, and world. Even though we are created and purposed differently, what are some ways we need each other and compliment one another? (1 Corinthians 11:11)
 10. Why does the world work against God’s definitions and purpose in gender? Why should the church submit to God’s created plan for gender in our appearances and service? (1 Corinthians 11:14-16)
- More questions at: www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions

How to Love Better

1 Corinthians 13 (ESV)

Know Your Purpose in Life

- Why do you exist?
- What are you good at? What do you enjoy?
- Where do you spend the majority of your time?
- Who are the people you see and interact with most often?

God Created You to E_____ His Love!

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant [5] or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; [6] it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. [7] Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [8] Love never ends.”

Your Creator’s Love Is...

- Unconditional - 1 John 4:10
- Sacrificial - John 3:16
- Verbal - John 17:26
- Demonstrated - Romans 5:8, John 15:13
- Continual (never-ending, never-fading) - 1 Corinthians 13:8
- Inclusive - John 3:16, , 1 John 2:2
- Exclusive - John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 John 2:23, John 17:9, 20
- Parental - (1 John 3:1), 10 Commandments, Not a Burden (1 John 5:3), Discipline (Hebrews 12:7)
- Patient - 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4
- Commanded - 1 John 5:3, John 15:12

Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

His Love Is A F_____ G_____

- We Must Make a Choice
- Will We Receive It?
- Will We Reject It?

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Our Responses to Gifts:

- Apathetic - not care (Matthew 24:12)
- Ignorant - not know (Romans 10:13-17)
- Arrogant - not humble (1 Corinthians 13:4, 2 Timothy 3:2)
- Worldly/Carnal - not eternally-minded (1 John 2:15-17)

When His Love Is R_____ ...

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

- We Miss Our Purpose and Are Cursed
 - Love of Self, World, & Satan Controls Us
- John 12:25, Romans 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 16:22

John 12:25 “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

When His Love is R_____ ...

Mark 12:30–31 “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ [31] The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

We R_____ In Loving G_____

- A Personal Choice and Real Change

- Mentally - our thoughts
- Volitionally - our will
- Emotionally - our feelings
- Physically - our time and energy
- Spiritually - made alive

We R_____ in Loving O_____

- In His Example - 1 John 4:9-12
- In Obedience to Him - John 14:15, 15:12, 1 John 2:5, 5:3
- Counter-culturally - Matthew 5:44

Know and Live Your Purpose

- Love God and Others

- 1 Corinthians 13:13 “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
- 1 Corinthians 16:14 “Let all that you do be done in love.”
- 1 Corinthians 16:23–24 “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

NOW WHAT?!?!

- How can you better receive and enjoy God’s amazing love?
- How can you better use your gifts and passions to overflow God’s love? Where? To Whom? When?
- Will you make real, lasting changes to love better?

This Next Week’s New Testament Reading Plan:

- Week 30: 1 Corinthians 13 -16 ~ 2 Corinthians 1
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
 - **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
 - **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan

How to Love Better

1 Corinthians 13 (ESV)

Know Your Purpose in Life

- Why do you exist?
- What are you good at? What do you enjoy?
- Where do you spend the majority of your time?
- Who are the people you see and interact with most often?

God Created You to Enjoy His Love!

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant [5] or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; [6] it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. [7] Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [8] Love never ends.”

Your Creator’s Love Is...

- Unconditional - 1 John 4:10
1 John 4:10 “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
- Sacrificial - John 3:16
John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
- Verbal - John 17:26
John 17:26 “I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”
- Demonstrated - Romans 5:8, John 15:13
John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

- Continual (never-ending, never-fading) - 1 Corinthians 13:8
1 Corinthians 13:8 “Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”

- Inclusive - John 3:16, 1 John 2:2
1 John 2:2 “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

- Exclusive - John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 John 2:23, John 17:9, 20
John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
Acts 4:12 “there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- 1 John 2:23 “No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”
John 17:9 “I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.”
John 17:20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word”

- Parental - (1 John 3:1), 10 Commandments, Not a Burden (1 John 5:3), Discipline (Hebrews 12:7)
1 John 3:1 “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”
1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome”
Hebrews 12:7 “It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”

- Patient - 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4
2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”
1 Timothy 2:4 “who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

- Commanded - 1 John 5:3, John 15:12
John 15:12–14 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

His Love Is A Free Gift

- We Must Make a Choice
- Will We Receive It?
- Will We Reject It?

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Our Responses to Gifts:

- Apathetic - not care (Matthew 24:12)
Matthew 24:12 “And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

- Ignorant - not know (Romans 10:13-17)
Romans 10:13–17 “how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

- Arrogant - not humble (1 Corinthians 13:4, 2 Timothy 3:2)
2 Timothy 3:2 “For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy”

- Worldly/Carnal - not eternally-minded (1 John 2:15-17)
1 John 2:15–17 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

When His Love Is Rejected ...

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

- We Miss Our Purpose and Are Cursed
- Love of Self, World, & Satan Controls Us
John 12:25, Romans 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 16:22

John 12:25 “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

Romans 2:4–5 “Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? [5] But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.”

1 Corinthians 16:22 “If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!”

When His Love is Received ...

Mark 12:30–31 “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ [31] The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

We Respond In Loving God

- A Personal Choice and Real Change

- Mentally - our thoughts
- Volitionally - our will
- Emotionally - our feelings
- Physically - our time and energy
- Spiritually - made alive

We Respond in Loving Others

- In His Example - 1 John 4:9-12

1 John 4:9–12 “the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”

- In Obedience to Him - John 14:15, 15:12, 1 John 2:5, 5:3
John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
John 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
1 John 2:5 “but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.”
1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”

- Counter-culturally - Matthew 5:44

Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”

Know and Live Your Purpose

- Love God and Others

- 1 Corinthians 13:13 “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
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