

1 Corinthians study
Fall 2020
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**Week 5 study guide “Living Love”
1 Corinthians 12-14.**

Read through chapters 12-14. Underline verses that stand out. Jot down questions you have.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:2-11. Based on these verses, what do you think might have been the specific question the Corinthians asked Paul about spiritual gifts?

According to verse 3, what is one indication that someone is not speaking by the Spirit of God?

In verses 4-6, Paul drives home an important principle concerning spiritual gifts. Summarize in 1 sentence what he was trying to communicate.

Do any of these gifts listed in chapter 12 jump out to you as spiritual gifts you possess?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. What would you say to someone who claims they don't possess a spiritual gift?

Look at 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:10-11. List all of the gifts mentioned.

As you look over the list of gifts above, which two or three would you say might be gifts God has given you?

I'd encourage you to download and take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory that you can find on our website, www.fpcfd.org/1cor

What are the results of the inventory? Do the gifts conform what you thought about which gifts God has given to you?

What are some ways that you have used these gifts for the benefit of the body of Christ?

Describe a time when you felt God enabling you as you implemented one of your gifts.

According to 1 Corinthians 12:11, who decided which gift each person should have?

Turn to 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. List below some of the different backgrounds of the Corinthian believers mentioned in verse 13.

What are some of the different backgrounds you see in your church or in the other churches in your area?

What are some disagreements or problems you have seen among believers because of differences?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-17. Have you ever wished you were more like someone else? Why?

Write 1 Corinthians 12:18 below:

Take a moment to describe some of the unique qualities God has created in you. You may choose to list your spiritual gifts, temperament qualities, the “super power” of your Enneagram number, your love language, your personality traits, talents, or other special abilities that God has given you. Remember, it isn’t prideful to acknowledge what God has given you any more than it’s prideful for an ear to acknowledge that it can hear.)

Now choose one of those things and writ it in the blanks below:

The Lord has given me the special ability to *(blank)*

and I will use this to help others by *(blank)* _

Read 1 John 4:7-12 and answer the following questions: Where does love come from? (v. 7)

Who is love? (v. 8)

How did God demonstrate God's love for us? (v. 9)

What is real love? (v. 10)

How do we express God's love? (v. 11-12)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. When and how have you experienced the truth that a lack of love drains the value from a possession, talent, gift, or relationship?

Rewrite 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, and every time the Scripture says "love" or "it" (Referring to love), write your name instead.
For example, *Sara is patient...*

As you think about what love is, and what love is not, in reading 1 Corinthians 13, in what areas of your life do you sense God speaking a word of affirmation or encouragement? Now, in what areas do you sense a conviction of the Holy Spirit?

Read Mark 12:28-31. How does Jesus' answer regarding the greatest commandment support Paul's teaching about the importance of love?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:9-12. What does verse 9 say about our knowledge?

What illustration does Paul use in verse 12 to describe our imperfect vision?

How does recognizing that your own knowledge is partial and incomplete motivate you to be more gracious toward someone you currently disagree with?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. What did Paul imply about children?

How would you describe the differences between the thoughts, words, and reasoning abilities of children and adults?

We do not have to compromise our beliefs in order to show love to others. Instead, we can respectfully share our views and display God's kindness and patience as we dialogue with maturity. To do this we must remember these truths from 1 Corinthians 13:

- Love comes from God.
- To show God's love to those around us, we must stay close to God.
- Love is greater than any talent or ability.
- Without love, our words and actions mean nothing.
- Love is patient, kind, humble, forgiving, truthful, persevering, faithful, hopeful, and enduring.
- Our view of love is partial and incomplete.
- Love and approval are two different things.

Now, write the last verse of 1 Corinthians 13 below:

Let's remember that the greatest thing we can do is love and be loved!

Think about a current relational conflict of your own. How might a lack of love be at the root of the problem?

Turn to 1 Corinthians 14:1 and write how your Bible translation describes what you should do related to love:

Did you know that the reputation about Presbyterians is that we like to do things decently and in order?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:39-40. How did Paul summarize his instructions related to the worship service?

Paul, too, liked to do things decently and in order. Was Paul the first Presbyterian? Paul called the church to do things properly and in order. As you consider your own life, is God bringing to mind anything that is out of order? If so, how is it causing you a lack of peace?

God is a God of order, and calls us to peace rather than chaos. Every morning when I make my bed, it's my way of reminding myself that I serve a God who brings order to the chaos. So, in this way, I am bringing order to the messy chaos of my sheets. I am bringing the kingdom of God to my little corner of the bedroom in my little corner of the world. I often do this in the dark, as Austin is still asleep, and it reminds me that God's creating power often begins in the dark, when the world is asleep, and we can't even sense God's presence yet.

Continue to read 1 Corinthians this week and ask God to use Scripture to make you more and more into the image and likeness of God's son Jesus Christ. I will see you next week!

www.fpcfd.org/1cor

Don't forget our gathering in the commons of First Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening November 8th from 6:30-8:00pm. Wear your mask.