

Bible Study Questions

Above All, Love: The 'Who' and 'What' of Christian Love: "What Christian Love Looks Like"

Focus

As an antidote to selfishness and envy in the church, Christians must pursue love. For spiritual gifts without love are worthless, and love is supreme because it lasts forever.

Read

[1 Corinthians 13](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching on the sermon series, "*Above All, Love*", which can be found on our [website](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Questions for Review

(The purpose of these opening questions is to review the passage that was recently preached on in order to make sure that everyone understands the basic structure, events, people, and point of the passage.)

1. Work through some basic review questions for this passage – for example:
 - What's the context? (Where are we in this book of the Bible; the New Testament; and the Bible as a whole?)
 - Who are the people and/or situations that this passage is addressing?
 - What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?
 - Is there a conflict or high point in this passage? (What is the structure of this passage that builds to that point?)
 - What was the main point or theme of this passage that was identified in Sunday's sermon?
 - What surprises are there in this passage?
2. What questions do you still have about this passage that you'd like to discuss?

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Questions for Reflection and Application

(The purpose of these reflection questions is to help each other not just understand what the passage is saying, but to think more deeply about what it means so that we can then accurately apply it to our lives today.)

1. How does understanding the wider context of 1 Corinthians 12-14 help you to better understand the purpose and aim of chapter 13?
2. What spiritual gifts and/or Christian ministries in the church are you tempted to value more than love? How might that show up in your attitudes and actions?
3. Do you think it's true that Christians tend to undervalue love? If so, why do you think that is?
4. What's the Bible's argument here for why love is the greatest and how does that motivate you to pursue love?
5. If you were to do the exercise of inserting your name in place of the word 'love' in verses 4-7, what does that reveal about some areas where you need to grow in love?
6. Can you identify an aspect of love here in which you've grown in over the last year?
7. What are some ways these aspects of love can be specifically applied within a Christian church?
8. Can you think of some ways in which Jesus exhibited this kind of love in His life?
9. Spend some time praying for our church, that our church would be increasingly conformed to this picture of love.

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Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

1. How does the gospel inform your understanding and application of this passage?
2. Has studying this passage in any way challenged your understanding about who God is and what He's like? If so, how so?
3. In light of studying this passage, is there any behavior or attitude that you need to personally address in your life? If so, how specifically will you address it?
4. How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?