

The More Excellent Way: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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Key Truth: Love is the “more excellent way” to express our faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

In this beloved chapter, Paul highlights the dangers of loveless giftedness, and in so doing, describes for us what love *is*. In the very middle of his teaching on spiritual gifts (chapters 12-14), with their advantages and abuse, Paul introduces “a more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31b), which is the way of love. What is Love? Love is the “more excellent way” to express our faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on “**The More Excellent Way.**”

DIG IN

1. Love is Essential. (vv. 1-3)

In what ways is speaking without love like a “noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (v. 1)?

In what ways does this fail to accomplish the purpose of the spiritual gifts?

2. Love is Personal. (vv. 4-7)

Read verses 4-5: In what ways do these descriptions represent personality characteristics? Give examples from these verses.

Which of these characteristics resonate the most with you personally?

3. Love is Eternal. (vv. 8-12)

In these verses Paul describes three temporary realities in this life that contrast with the eternal nature of Love: spiritual gifts, natural human development, and partial knowledge. What will change about each of these temporary realities “when the perfect comes” (v. 10)?

4. Love is the Greatest. (v. 13)

According to the sermon, why is love greater than Faith and Hope (see Hebrews 11:1 and Romans 8:24-25)? Can you think of other reasons?

5. Love is a Person.

In what ways does Paul’s “more excellent way” point to Jesus Christ?

DO

In what ways will you put what you’ve learned into practice this week?