



Life In The Spirit – Love Is All You Need

Date: 2nd June 2019

Speakers: Aaron Smith/Tony Bunker

Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 13

Talk Summary

Chapter 13 is key to building on the fact we are all part of one body (chapter 12) and understanding that love is key before we start using the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We need to understand that Paul is talking about 'agape' love which is important to understand when reading the passage

(v1-3) 'Where is the love'

Our basis must be to use the spiritual gifts from a place of love otherwise it's meaningless, hollow and of no value (clanging cymbal, resounding gong). Our motives must be out of love when using the gifts. Have we gone into things with the wrong motives or accepting the praise that is actually due to God?

(v4-8) 'Real Love'

Paul then goes into detail about what love looks like. This is not how love feels but rather the characteristics. If we replace the word love with the name Jesus (Jesus is patient.etc) then we see the parallel of Jesus and love. God offers this love to each of us, without catches because in Jesus we are fully loved and accepted. The holy spirit changes us when we choose to follow Jesus, we have the agape love of Jesus in us. If you changed the word love for our name how would it look? Is the Holy Spirit putting his finger on an area we need his transformation in? Give space for him to speak to you.

(v8-13) 'Everlasting Love/Forever Love'

Growing up we sometimes have this impression that things last forever. The world would say love is something without issue, no ups and downs but the reality is different for us, the constant love we have is that of Jesus – a love that doesn't change, leave or forsake us.

When we get to glory the gifts pass away and all that is left is love. We no longer need faith (as we will see Jesus), hope (as the hope we have of what to come is now a reality) and again we are left in a state of increasing agape love. Our legacy, as individuals and a community should be one of agape love. We love because he loves us (John 15:12-13).

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Word

We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?