

Love + Liberty

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MUSIC: PAT SMITH

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REVIEW & USE 1 Corinthians

Review:

1. Love (for God and others) motivates the use (or non-use) of our freedoms.

1 Cor. 8:1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. **2** If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. **3** But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

2. Paul establishes himself as the model of this love.

1 Cor. 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

1 Cor. 9:12 If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

How do we grow in our love?

1. Growth in love requires increased understanding and practice.

Phil. 1:9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

2. Firm up your understanding of what God's love looks like.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

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

Rom. 8:38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Firm up your understanding of what loving others looks like.

1 Cor. 13:4 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.

4. Continually process, situation by situation, how best to exercise love.

1 Cor. 9:22b I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

What is accomplished as we grow in love?

1. We make godly determinations in everyday life.

Phil. 1:10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

2. We feel more at home with God.

1 John 4:11 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.

3. We experience freedom from the fear of judgment.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

4. We live confidently for the gospel.

Rom. 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Reflection/Discussion/Application

1. Reflect on some of the ways our culture waters-down the term love. Determine some ways to grow in your own understanding of biblical, God-like, sacrificial love.

2. Take time each morning to bask in the glow of God's love for you. He sees all your failures, yet he still actively loves you. Thank him for the lengths he went to, in order that you might experience his love.

3. Memorize 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Is this definition of love on display in your own life? Identity relationship where loving in this way is difficult. And then practice!!

SONGS

"Stand In Your Love" - Josh Baldwin, Ethan Hulse, Rita Springer & Mark Harris

"God So Loved" - Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash

"Cornerstone" - Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan & William Bradbury

"How Great Thou Art" - Carl Boberg

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$39,797.90*
WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,322,122.94*
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,410,880.00*

* these amounts reflect the previous weeks giving and will be updated in next weeks notes