

1 CORINTHIANS 13

LOVE IS THE BEST

BIBLE STUDY



Last week we talked about the gifts that the Holy Spirit delights to give his church family so that we are encouraged and built up as disciples. The famous passage we are looking at this week is frequently chosen for use in weddings. But it's also about the church flourishing and functioning well together.

STARTER: If you were to ask someone in Croydon to define love for you, what sort of things do you think they'd say?



Read 1 Corinthians 12 : 31 – 13 : 13

- Look at verses 1-3. A Christian who prophesies, speaks in tongues, or works hard in areas of social action, looks impressive to those looking on – both believers and those of no faith.
- What is Paul's challenge to those who work to achieve these signs? Why do you think Paul makes this point / notices these outward signs?
- Can you think of other places in the Bible that back up the way God sees faith differently from how the world might see it? (See 1 Samuel 16 v 7).

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1 Corinthians 12 : 31 – 13 : 13

- Looking at **verses 4-7**, what particular phrases stand out to you? Can you think of examples when someone has demonstrated any of these descriptions in a way that has been especially pertinent in your life?
- **Verses 8 -12** look forward and talk about how things will be in the future. What assurances does Paul give us as we live our lives with a heavenly perspective?
- How might we use this passage in prayers of / for:
 - repentance
 - worship
 - situations that are bringing us anxiety or concern
 - relationship struggles
 - a normal “uneventful” day



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GOING DEEPER

**Look at Jesus' command
in John 13 : 34-35**

Do you think people notice that we are Jesus' disciples because of our love for one another? If so, how? If not, why not? How could we be more noticed for our love?

**Pray about this with
your group now**

Read 1 John 4 : 7-21

What do these verses tell us about love?

**Looking back
at the start**

How do you think our church could live out love in 21st century Croydon, using these passages?