

Redefining Love: Week 2

February 9, 2025

Message Summary

In this week's message, we explored **1 Corinthians 13**, one of the most well-known passages on love. Paul challenges us to move beyond just words and emotions—love must be lived out in action. The Corinthian church struggled with pride, division, and self-centeredness, and Paul reminded them (and us) that love should be the defining mark of a believer.

We examined three key aspects of love:


1. **Love Over Everything Else** (vv. 1-3) – Without love, even great achievements mean nothing.
2. **What Love Looks Like** (vv. 4-7) – Love is patient, kind, selfless, forgiving, and enduring.
3. **Love Lasts Forever** (vv. 8-13) – Spiritual gifts and earthly success fade, but love is eternal.

If we are going to redefine love **the way God defines it**, we need to not just **talk about love—we need to live it**.


Icebreaker Ideas


1. Go-To Snack or Favorite Weekend Activity?
2. Would You Rather: Be Able to Speak All Languages or Have an Unlimited Supply of Pizza?

Key Scripture(s)

 **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** – If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or

boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! 9 Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! 10 But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless. 11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. 12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. 13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

 **John 13:34-35** – 34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

 **1 John 4:7-12** – 7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

Talk About It

Love Over Everything Else

- Paul says even spiritual gifts, knowledge, and sacrifice **are meaningless without love**. What are some things people often prioritize **over love** in relationships (marriage, friendships, church, workplace)?
- Have you ever experienced a time when you were **going through the motions** in a relationship but lacked true love? What did that feel like?

2 What Love Looks Like

- Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** out loud. Which of these descriptions of love **is the hardest for you to live out?** Why?
- Think of a relationship where love has endured through **difficult seasons**. What made that love stand the test of time?

3 Love That Lasts

- Paul says, "*Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*" How can we practice **this kind of love** even when relationships get hard?
- In what ways can **our love for others reflect God's love for us?**

4 Living It Out

- **Challenge:** This week, choose one **practical way** to show love—whether it's patience, kindness, forgiveness, or putting someone else first.
- Who in your life **needs to experience the love of Christ** through you right now? How can you be intentional about loving them?

Prayer

God, thank You for showing us what true love looks like through Jesus. Help us to love others with patience, kindness, and selflessness. Teach us to forgive, to put others first, and to live a life marked by love. Let our relationships be a reflection of Your love for us. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we can love like You do. In Jesus' name, Amen.