



GOING DEEPER
April 13/14, 2019

Teacher: Pastor Tim

Title: The Greatest...

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

Summary of the Text: After a thorough, interactive assessment of all that was pulling the Corinthian Christians in a downward spiral, Paul presented one compelling solution that would defy gravity.

Main Idea: there is only one goal worthy of your unqualified pursuit.

Questions:

1. Sketch two profiles:
 - a. Sketch a profile of what your friends who do not embrace faith think a Christian is like
 - b. Sketch a profile of what you believe a mature Christian is like

Do you agree with Francis Schaeffer's assessment that the distinguishing mark of a Christian is love? What reservations do you have about making such a claim?

2. In the opening verses of 1 Cor 13 Paul says that all spiritual gifts or virtues that are not permeated by love amount to nothing. Love is the priority. We are well aware that no worthwhile pursuit happens automatically ... what is your strategy to more fully embrace the priority of love in your life?

Discuss the suggested plan:

- a. A weekly priority audit – write down several choices you made in the last 7 days. Of those choices to what extent was love the basis for making them?
 - b. Seek Monthly Input – inviting a mature Christian who knows you well to speak into your life identifying areas where you may be choosing a lower value than love – celebrating when you choose the higher path
 - c. Design your own eulogy – would those remembering your life describe love as your highest value?
3. In question 1 above, you were asked what reservations you might have about making such an audacious claim about love. Most of those reservations were likely rooted in a flawed definition of love. consider the following chart and discuss as many of the tangible expressions of love as are suitable:

LOVE IS	LOVE ISN'T
Patient	Envious
Kind	Brag
Celebrates Truth	Proud or Puffed Up
Protects	Rude/Dishonoring
Trusts	Self-Seeking
Hopes	Easily Angered
Perseveres	Keeping Records of Sights
	Pleased with evil

4. We dare not arrogantly suggest that only Christians are capable of love. Many, many non-believers love deeply. There is, however, a depth of love rooted in God (Romans 5:8), demonstrated in Good Friday/Easter, that takes love to another level. Discuss the depth of a need for love that only God provides.

Never Stop Praying:

- For yourself to more fully embrace the priority of love in your life
- For our Good Friday and Easter Services
- For those joining us for Easter Weekend