



SERMON STUDY QUESTIONS FOR MARCH 2, 2014

Sermon Series: The Cross-Shaped Life: A Study In 1 Corinthians

Sermon: "Gospel-Driven Love"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3

Preaching: Bob Hopper

1. Why does Paul write (*1 Cor 13:13*) that love is greater than faith and hope?
2. The Corinthian church had elevated good things (spiritual gifts, knowledge, wisdom) over the best thing (love). Have we done this in our personal life, family life, or church life? If so, what has it produced?
3. Do you agree with the statement, "It is easier to be orthodox in our theology than it is loving in our relationships"? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. When Paul defines "love" he does so by telling us what it is (*13:4,7,8*) and what it is not (*13:4,5,6*). Of these many descriptions, which one is most challenging to you personally and why? Which one is most challenging to our church and why?
5. How does our pride impair our ability to love? Can you illustrate this from your personal life, family life, and church life? How does the reality of *Romans 5:5* give you hope that you can love others well?
6. What is the significance of the statement that "love never ends" (*13:8*)? What else in scripture lasts forever? See the following: *Psalms 111:3; 117:2; 135:13; 136 (all); 1 Peter 1:25; Revelation 1:6; 14:6; 21:2*.
7. What is the difference between the love of others being a "mechanical duty" rather than a "relational dynamic"? Can you identify a person in your life whom you are not loving well --- or not at all? Which truths of *1 Corinthians 13* are you violating? Write them down --- name them --- own them --- confess them --- run in faith to the One who loves you perfectly for forgiveness and help.
8. What is the foundation of our love for others (see *1 John 4:7---11*)? What is "gospel---driven love"? What might change in your relationships if you pursued people (especially those who have hurt or failed you) with "gospel---driven love"?
9. What is the significance of Paul's teaching in *13:12*, especially the statement "*even as I have been fully known*"? In what ways is the gospel all about "full exposure with full acceptance" (see *Hebrews 4:12---16*). How does this kind of love feed your soul and empower you to love others well?
10. Would you be willing to spend a few minutes in prayer every day, asking the Lord to show you more and more of his great love for you (see *Ephesians 3:14---21*) and asking the Lord to give you, your family, and your church family greater love for others?