

TAKEAWAY

Real Life Church

Journeying through 1 Corinthians

LOVE, ACTUALLY

Sunday 23rd June 2019

INTRODUCTION

This week we looked at 1 Corinthians 13, a passage that sits in the middle of a longer section of Paul's letter that is all about worship. Either side of this mini-sermon on love, he talks about using the gifts of the spirit and how to conduct a worship meeting. But he chose to hinge the whole thing around love, to put it at the centre, because love, actually, needs to be at the centre of everything we do.

READ

1 Corinthians 13

DISCUSS

1. King Solomon was famously given the opportunity by God to ask for one thing and he asked for wisdom. If you were put in his shoes, what would you ask for?
2. Paul is really clear in verses 1-3 that the gifts are nothing without love. That it is love that needs to motivate the things we do. What motivates you to use the gifts you have?
3. What holds you back from using your gifts?
4. In verse 2, Paul says that all knowledge is nothing without love. As Christians, we can 'know' a lot about God and faith, but experiencing

that, knowing God's love, is sometimes harder. When have you truly 'known' God's love?

5. What helps you to live really aware of your identity as a deeply loved child of God?

6. Verses 4-7 give a good list of what love looks like – which of those do you struggle with?

7. The love that Paul talks about is agape love, a love we are called to show everyone – where do you find that difficult? When have you overcome that and loved someone against the odds? Or been loved against the odds?

8. "Love always perseveres." (V7-NIV) or "Puts up with anything." (Message). What does this look like in an abusive relationship, or if

we're talking about a fascist dictator?

9. As you think about the people you live with, work with and hang out with, how could you demonstrate love to them in a way that point to Jesus? Maybe ask God to show you this week.

PRAY

Take some time to pray and ask to receive God's love in order that you are then able to pour it out to those around you.

Loving people is difficult sometimes – but it can start by praying for them, why not pray for people you wouldn't normally?

