

Discovery Group - Basic Commands

(4) Love

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What characteristics of love particularly challenge you today? How can you grow more into this picture of love?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Matthew 5:43-48 Luke 10:25-37

Romans 12:9-21 1 John 4:7-21

Love

1 Corinthians 13, the famous chapter on love, is situated in a section of scripture in which Paul gives instructions regarding the church gathering together (1 Corinthians 11-14). In 1 Cor 12, he teaches about spiritual gifts and the body of Christ, and he ends that section with those words:

“Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.”

The most excellent way turns out to be the way of love, and the scripture makes it clear that all the other teachings pale in comparison to this one. That even were we to get all the other stuff right and have picture perfect gatherings with everyone doing what they should, without love it would all be worthless.

This chapter itself begins with strong statements regarding the supreme importance of love, and ends with exhortations to grow in love. But the meat of this chapter lies in the rubber-meets-the-road paragraph right in the middle (13:4-7). In these four short verses, we are given a beautiful and ruthlessly challenging description of what true love looks like. Take a few moments to read that short section again, pausing over each phrase.

Patient. Kind. Does not envy. Does not boast. Is not proud. Does not dishonor others. Is not self-seeking. Is not easily angered. Keeps no record of wrongs. Does not delight in evil, but rather in the truth. Always protects. Always trusts. Always hopes. Always perseveres.

This is meant to be a description of you and me; of our shared life as God's family. Each word. This is what attracts people to Jesus and how we prove that He is real. It's what people should notice when they spend time with us. There is a lot at stake. This is far beyond just a nice bit of encouragement. Our mission - drawing others to Jesus and making disciples - depends on us living it.

Read 4-7 one more time. Mentally note 2-3 of these characteristics that challenge you today. Why do they stand out? If there's time, share with the group. What can you do to intentionally grow into this picture? *“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.”*