

Scripture

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Opening Questions

- "Giftedness is not godliness; visibility is not value." How can someone look "impressive" outwardly (ministry, knowledge, spiritual vocabulary) while remaining spiritually immature?
- The world says, "I'll love you IF you're lovable." God's love says, "Because Christ loved me when I didn't deserve it, I can love you when it costs me something." Share a time someone loved you at your least lovable. What did that reveal about God?

Digging Deeper

- Read **1 Cor 13:1-3**. Paul lists tongues, prophecy, knowledge, faith, and extreme sacrifice. What is the spiritual net worth of these gifts without love? Why is God so uncompromising on this?
- Read **1 Cor 13:4-7**. Every descriptor here is an action or attitude, not a feeling. Which characteristic (*patient, kind, not irritable, not resentful*) is hardest for you right now?
- Read **1 Cor 13:8-13**. Gifts expire; love is eternal. How should this reshape how you prioritize your time, energy, and church relationships?
- Read **Rom 5:6-11** & **1 Jn 4:9-12**. How does a deeper awe of the Gospel directly fuel our capacity to love difficult people?

Living it Out

- Think of the sermon's pause to pray for someone who hurt you, a tough boss, or a strained family member. What shifted in you? How can you bless them this week?
- Paul's measuring stick for maturity is becoming less irritable, less resentful, and less demanding. Have you substituted "knowing more Bible" or "serving more" for actual transformation?
- Where have you started to "fake it" or treat the Gospel as old news? What does returning to daily awe and repentance look like this week?