

BELPRES CHURCH

Stubborn Love

Icebreaker Question: Do you have an all-time favorite worship song or a favorite (right now) worship song? What is it?

Opening Question: Looking back to last week's discussion... How did you live differently or practice what we talked about in your life this week? What did you do and how did it go?

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ 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. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Scripture Reflection Questions: Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- As we read through this same passage again for a second week, are there different things that stand out this week for you?

- How does this passage's descriptions of love compare to how love is understood in our culture?

Sermon Questions: Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

- Looking at the descriptions of perfect love in verses 4-7, in which one of these descriptions are you strongest? In which do you have growth opportunities?
- Talk about a time when someone stubbornly, persistently loved you when you were difficult to love? How did that affect you?

Closing Question and Application: Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week? Who might you share this with?

Closing group prayer: Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Take the challenging parts of your conversation to Jesus. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.