



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: **God's Design for Love**
TEXT: **1 Corinthians 13**

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Love is used to sell everything from spaghetti, soda, and Popcorn to automobiles. Unfortunately, some people love their spouses like a new car. When they get too many miles on them, they trade them in for a newer model! The fleeting, sentimental Hollywood version of "I love you" bears no resemblance to God's definition. Although poets and authors have written volumes about love, none can compare with the apostle Paul's writing in 1 Corinthians. Read 1 Corinthians 13.

Discussion Questions:

1. Take a vote. Do you think (1) love is a feeling, (2) love is a choice, (3) love is both? Discuss why you voted as you did.
2. How does Paul's description of love compare with your vote about love in question #1 above.?
3. It is possible to do sacrificial religious service without love. How does Paul evaluate such activity (vs. 1-3)? Discuss.
4. How does a lack of love for your spouse affect the value of your sacrificial service in the church or other Christian activities? Discuss.
5. It can be tempting to avoid resolving conflicts with family members by filling your time with Christian activities or other forms of service. How can you resist this temptation? Explain.
6. What is it that is impressive about the list in verses 4-7 that describes what love is and what it is not? Why? Explain.
7. How does our focus differ when we are patient and kind instead of envious or boastful? Discuss.
8. How do rudeness, self-seeking, and being easily angered show an absence of love? Discuss.

9. Marriage counselors warn against keeping accounts of wrongs because of the destructive power of such lists. How would the positive actions of love in verses 5-7 protect you from this danger? Discuss.

10. "Love is giving someone the benefit of the doubt." How well does this summarize verse 7? Explain with examples.

11. The Corinthian Christians boasted about their gifts of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge, which are all temporary. How do the illustrations of the child and the mirror show what they should have been more concerned about (vs. 8-13)?

12. What helps you measure whether you value faith, hope, and love over temporary things? Discuss.

13. In these studies, you have examined God's design for a lasting, exclusive, and satisfying marriage through its values and principles expressed in 1 Corinthians 13. How can a regular review of this chapter encourage you to live by that design? Discuss.