

THE WEEKLY – THE LOVE PRINCIPLE

THE LOVE CHAPTER 1 Corinthians 13

If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I knew all the mysteries of the future and knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would I be? And if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, without love I would be no good to anybody. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would be of no value whatsoever.

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. ⁶ It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. ⁸ Love will last forever, but prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will all disappear. ⁹ Now we know only a little, and even the gift of prophecy reveals little! ¹⁰ But when the end comes, these special gifts will all disappear.

¹¹ It's like this: When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹² Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me now. ¹³ There are three things that will endure—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

BREAKING ICE (20 min.)

Have you ever been on the receiving end of Agape love (selfless love from another person)? What was it about that love that makes you believe it was truly Agape love?

Have you ever shown Agape love to another?

The Passion has scenes that are hard to watch but the fact is crucifixion was the worst way to die... more than a death sentence.... it was torture.

The whipping and beating before hand was considered merciful, in that a person would die sooner. Many times those who were sentenced would mock the guards so the guards would beat them even more. They didn't want to spend much time nailed to that cross. As much as we would like to we cannot escape the reality of the brutality of the death of Jesus.

What hit you most in the video on Sunday?

Why was this part of God's plan?

PRAYER

LOOK TO THE BOOK:

PART 1 (20 min)

Read over the passages on the handout. Circle things that strike you or make a note on the page.

Ask each person to share one highlight from these passages.

What is God teaching you about love?

PART 2 (10 min)

Read Romans 4:16-25

What is the primary message in this passage?

What can we learn from Abraham about our walk with God?

Verses 23-25 contain "BIG WORDS". Belief in Jesus brings acceptance in God's eyes. When you believe in Jesus it is about having a relationship with Him. Do you think you know Jesus personally? How is that worked out for you day to day? What would you like to change in this relationship?

(Part 3 - 10 minutes)

Read Romans 5:1-8

What can we learn about “troubles/suffering” from this passage?

How does character produce hope?

The NLT version translates “hope” more literally as “our confident expectation of salvation”. Does this help in our understanding?

TIME FOR OPEN PRAYER / MEDITATION 10 min

(someone read 1 Cor 13 and then have a quiet time where people can pray simple sentence prayers or just be still and sense God – focus on love give thanks for – pray for others as led)

Passages that speak of God’s love....

John 3:16-21 (NCV)

16 “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. 17 God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. 18 People who believe in God’s Son are not judged guilty. Those who do not believe have already been judged guilty, because they have not believed in God’s one and only Son. 19 They are judged by this fact: The Light has come into the world, but they did not want light. They wanted darkness, because they were doing evil things. 20 All who do evil hate the light and will not come to the light, because it will show all the evil things they do. 21 But those who follow the true way come to the light, and it shows that the things they do were done through God.”

Rom 5:5-8 (NCV)

5 And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. He gave us his love through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us. 6 When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God. 7 Very few people will die to save the life of someone else. Although perhaps for a good person someone might possibly die. 8 But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

1John 4:7-12 (NCV)

Love Comes from God

7 Dear friends, we should love each other, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become God’s child and knows

God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love to us: He sent his one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through him. 10 This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God’s love for us in sending his Son to be the way to take away our sins. 11 Dear friends, if God loved us that much we also should love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God, but if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is made perfect in us.

Rom 6:31-32 (NIV)

31 ¶ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all— how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Rom 6:35-39 (NIV)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Deut 7:7-9 (NIV)

7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

Hos 11:7-9

7 My people are determined to turn from me. Even if they call to the Most High, he will by no means exalt them. 8 ¶ "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim? *My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.* 9 *I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I turn and devastate Ephraim. For I am God, and not man— the Holy One among you. I will not come in wrath.*

(Don't read this is for Parts 1, 2, & 3)

Romans 4:16-5:8 (NCV) "God keeps His Promise"

16 So people receive God's promise by having faith. This happens so the promise can be a free gift. Then all of Abraham's children can have that promise. It is not only for those who live under the law of Moses but for anyone who lives with faith like that of Abraham, who is the father of us all. 17 As it is written in the Scriptures: "I am making you a father of many nations." This is true before God, the God Abraham believed, the God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing.

18 There was no hope that Abraham would have children. But Abraham believed God and continued hoping, and so he became the father of many nations. As God told him, "Your descendants also will be too many to count." 19 Abraham was almost a hundred years old, much past the age for having children, and Sarah could not have children. Abraham thought about all this, but his faith in God did not become weak. 20 He never doubted that God would keep his promise, and he never stopped believing. He grew stronger in his faith and gave praise to God. 21 Abraham felt sure that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 So, "God accepted Abraham's faith, and that faith made him right with God." 23 Those words ("God accepted Abraham's faith") were written not only for Abraham 24 but also for us. God will accept us also because we believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 Jesus was given to die for our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.

Romans 5:1-8 (NCV) (Right with God)

"Since we have been made right with God by our faith, we have peace with God. This happened through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 who has brought us into that blessing of God's grace that we now enjoy. And we are happy because of the hope we have of sharing God's glory. 3 We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. 4 And patience

produces character, and character produces hope. 5 And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. He gave us his love through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us. 6 When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God. 7 Very few people will die to save the life of someone else. Although perhaps for a good person someone might possibly die. 8 But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. "