

Sermon Title: Gifted-Love is the Greatest Gift

Sermon Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13



## **Sermon Discussion Guide (9/07)**

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

### **Scripture**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

### **Observation**

How are spiritual gifts without love described? Why do you think Paul uses such strong language to describe one who uses their spiritual gifts without love?

In verses 4-7, how is love described? What would it look like for these characteristics of love to be put into action?

What reasons does Paul give for describing love as the greatest gift?

Read Romans 12:9-13. In these verses, how is love practiced? What behaviors and attitudes are contrary to acting in love?

## **Application**

Why do you think we often value performance over love? What would it look like for you to evaluate your life not by the recognition you may receive or the results of your work but by whether you have sacrificially loved others?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 but insert your own name in place of the word “love/it.” When you make this change, which of these statements are currently most true for you? Which of these statements reflect an opportunity for you to grow in your practice of love?

Pastor Kenny challenged us to make love an action by carrying out one act of unseen, uncelebrated, and unconditional love each day this week. What ideas do you have for how you will carry out acts of love within your community and with the people you see?

Pastor Kenny concluded his sermon by asking us, “Am I growing in my gifts but shrinking in love? Am I doing things for Jesus but not becoming like Him?” How would you answer these two questions? How might God be speaking to you through your answers?

## **Prayer**

Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of Your Word, which reminds us that no matter how talented, wise, or powerful we may be, without love we are nothing. Thank You for showing us in Jesus what true love looks like. Lord, we confess that so often we are tempted to use our gifts to build ourselves up instead of building others up. We admit that we have spoken without kindness, acted without compassion, and served without love. Forgive us, Lord. Pour Your Spirit out upon us again this day. Grow in us the kind of love that never fails. May we be known not first for our abilities or gifts, but for our love for one another. Amen.