

**OCTOBER 2, 2022**  
**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
**LOVE: PLAIN AND SIMPLE**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 12:31-13:13**  
**FALL QUARTER WEEK 4 OF 12**

**Getting to Know Each Other Better**

**1. What was your least favorite chore as a kid?**

Probably picking up dog poop. Then probably cleaning the bathroom. Most favorite was vacuuming and mowing the lawn.

How about you?

**Renewed by Grace/Equipped as Disciples**

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13**

Since Dennis' message was "Love: Plain and Simple" I decided to make the questions plain and simple as well. Which means there aren't a lot of notes from me. What we will do this week is discuss and take a deeper dive into the biblical definition of love that undergirds these verses. Then we will give people a chance to talk about what is instructive and perhaps challenging for them from verses 4-7. Finally we will have the opportunity to pick one or more ways to apply the passage. Pretty simple, yet also very profound when lived out in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- 2. Have someone read Pastor Dennis' definition of love. After having done that, spend some time as a group reflecting on it. If needed, perhaps these questions will help spark discussion -**
- **What stands out to you from the definition? Why?**
  - **Why do we tend to struggle with living in this manner?**
  - **What kinds of things are needed in order to consistently live this way?**
  - **How does "He sacrificed for me; not I get to sacrifice for Him" help you in your efforts?**

Pastor Dennis' definition of love - "Determined act of self-giving toward others, without a thought of personal gain." See also Romans 5:8

What stands out to you from the definition? - What stands out to me are the words *determined*, *self-giving* and *without a thought*. Why? *Determined* requires intentionality, an act of the will. It also takes into consideration that there may be costs and that the person is willing to bear them. *Self-giving* tells me it will be costly and that the cost will be mine to bear. I am giving of myself. I am paying the price and taking on the risk. *Without a thought* tells me I can't keep score. I can't keep a mental record of what I'm doing versus what they are doing. This requires an unusually pure heart. And an innocence, I think. It also requires faith that God will take care of you. What else do you think about for this question?

Why do we tend to struggle with living in this manner? - What do you think? A few of my thoughts are - pride, fear, lack of faith, we remember getting burned in the past, selfishness. What would you add to this list?

What kinds of things are required to consistently live this way? - I would say that what is required is to be the opposite kind of a person than the one we described in the previous section. We need to be humble, full of faith, forgetful of past wrongs, unselfish. I also think we

need to be certain that Jesus will reward us at His judgment seat. And we need to have a strong desire to glorify God with our lives and reflect His character. What would you add?

How does “He sacrificed for me; now I get to sacrifice for Him” help you in your efforts? - This is cross-centered, Christ-centered motivation for obedience. It is not to be about guilt or trying to pay Him back. It is supposed to be about gratitude and “go and do likewise” living. Meditating on the cross and the sacrifice of Christ is intended to create a desire for imitation in us. It is also about following Christ. He sacrificed for us. We sacrifice for Him by sacrificing for others. I hope you can have a good conversation about this quote because this truth is what keeps our loving others pure and coming from the right motivation/right place.

- 3. Re-read verses 4-7. Which ones stand out to you as you think about where you are in life right now? Why? Are there changes to behavior that God is calling you to make? How so?**

I'll not share my answers here but will save them for my group.

#### **Sent in Love**

- 4. What is one way you can Pursue Love! this week?**

Please remind them that doing this consistently is impossible without the power of the Holy Spirit. This isn't about rolling up our sleeves and doing it ourselves. It's about glorifying God by relying on God as we seek to glorify God. Also, this should be the easiest message to apply that we have had in a long time.