

SUPERNATURAL CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 13

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – JULY 18, 2021

LOOK BACK

Discuss how God's Word had an impact last week.

1. During this past week, in what ways might corporate prayer with brothers and sisters across our local church have changed your perspective on God's worthiness and His provision to His Church, manifested through Jesus? In what ways might your response and surrender to Him and His Word have changed as a result? Take time in your group to celebrate Him and to encourage one another to stand firm in Him.

LOOK TO GOD'S WORD

Study and apply God's Word as a group.

1. Recap this week's passage:
 - "4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, English Standard Version)
 - In each verse of this week's passage, carefully consider each characterization of God's love - what it is and what it is not. With each characterization, identify and discuss reasons it holds for confidence in and surrender to the Lord.
 - As you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what insight was particularly helpful, distinctive, or challenging to you? What insight was difficult to grasp? What aspects of this sermon do you hope we talk about as a group?

LOOK FORWARD

Consider the implications of the passage for His body and His mission in the world..

1. Read John 13:34-35, John 17:22-26, Romans 12:10, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, Ephesians 4:1-2 and 1 Peter 4:8. When you consider the love of God, manifested through the incarnation and sacrifice of Jesus Christ (i.e., His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension), how do you respond (e.g., what do you see, sense, ask, know, and/or do)?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12-1-13:3. If we do not love one another, nothing else we do matters. Are you ever tempted to practice - even authentically and devotedly - your God-given spiritual gifts and pursue works of service to edify the Church ... and simultaneously put off sincerely, self-sacrificially loving brothers and sisters in His body? If so, consider spending time as a group confessing this sin to one another and praying for one another, that you may be healed (James 5:16).

3. Where might you struggle to fully know, surrender to, and live the Lord's love? What opportunities might you have to do so more fully? For example-
 - What areas of your heart and life are you reluctant to entrust to the Lord's sovereign, loving headship?
 - Where might you struggle to fully accept God's love toward you? Why might that be so?
 - Where might you struggle to allow His love to flow freely through you toward others? Why might that be so?
 - Where might you struggle to accept His love as it is authentically demonstrated toward you through others? Why?
 - What opportunities might you have to release pride and control and more fully yield to, know, and live in His love?
 - What opportunities might you have to release pride and control, and repentantly ask for forgiveness from (and extend forgiveness to) a brother or sister with whom you have experienced relational distance or conflict? Considering the characterization of God's love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, what might await you on the other side of yielding to His love?
4. Read Matthew 12:30, Matthew 16:24, and 1 Corinthians 14:1a. What new commitments might you make this week to i) personally yield further to God's love, and ii) sincerely share His love with others? What steps might you take toward those ends? How might your group lovingly walk with you, offering you support and accountability along the way?
5. We encourage you to memorize and meditate on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, individually and as a group.