

West Towne Circles Discussion Guide

Love Is Not

(February 9th - March 1st 2020)



LOVE
IS NOT

I Corinthians 13

Week Two: Love is Not Boastful

Overview

It's February, and you know what that means: relationships will be on full display this month. As a church, we've resolved to look at relationships (friendships, between family, romantic relationships, and church relationships) through the lens of 1 Corinthians 13. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul teaches them how to apply the Gospel to all parts of their lives, and how love is the thing that binds everything up together.

In this week's message, we read from 1 Corinthians 13:4, zeroing in on the idea that "love is not boastful." We've all been around people who love to boast. Whether it's the size of their home, the number in their bank account, or the many nice things they own – you know about it. Others of us may struggle with boasting personally. We feel like we've worked hard to get where we are, and so we like for others to know what that work has gotten us.

Scripture is clear, however: there's never a good reason to boast in ourselves. We are to be humble, recognizing that we're no better than anyone else. Paul does make it clear throughout his letters, however, that followers of Jesus should be ready and proud to boast about Christ and the goodness of his Kingdom.

Reading and Discussion

Use this scripture and these questions to frame your discussion as a group.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-4, Philippians 2:3-4, 1 Peter 5:5, and Proverbs 13:10 together as a group.

1. What about these scriptures stand out to you? What do you think they suggest about the topics of pride and humility?
2. Do you now, or have you ever struggled with pride? In what ways has it affected your relationships with others? Share, if you feel comfortable.
3. Paul tells us in Philippians that Jesus, though he was equal with God, resolved to humble himself and become a servant. How do you see humility in Jesus' life? In what ways can his humility inform our own practices?
4. George said on Sunday: "Humility is not thinking of yourself as worthless, acting like you're nothing. Humility is thinking of yourself **appropriately, accurately.**" Take some time as you finish discussing to discuss healthy ways of becoming humble, and loving others in humility. Finish by praying and asking God to help you develop a humble, loving servant's heart.