

West Towne Circles Discussion Guide

Love Is Not

(February 9th - March 1st 2020)

LOVE
IS NOT



I Corinthians 13

Week Three: Love is Not Demanding

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.

This past week, we dealt with Paul's next assertion about love in 1 Corinthians 13: "Love does not insist on its own way." We live in a society in which everyone insists on their own way. We all think we know what's best and that we ultimately should be in charge. Seeking control in unhealthy ways, however, eliminates our ability to trust in God's work and our ability to influence others in healthy ways.

As you read, pray, and discuss tonight - ask that God would reveal areas in your life in which you need to surrender control. Ask also that he would give you opportunities to positively influence others for the sake of his Kingdom.

Reading and Discussion

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

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-5, Luke 7:36-50

1. The main idea of our message this week centered around the idea of living in the tension between "control" and "influence." Do you struggle with control? Do you feel the need to always be in control of any situation you find yourself in?
2. How has your struggle with control impacted your relationship with Christ?
3. What are some tangible ways that you can begin to release some of your unhealthy need for control, and instead begin to live in healthy ways that influence others?
4. Our struggle with control often chokes out room us to be open to the movement of God's spirit. As you close, spend some time praying with your group that God would help you be open to what he has for you and be able to turn your need for control into an unshaken trust in him.