

A More Excellent Way

15 June 2025

Study Questions

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

1. Where does this beautiful hymn on Divine Love (agape) fit in Paul's letter to the Corinthian Christians? Why is that important?
2. In vss 4-7 Paul provides a description of love. Has anyone ever felt this way about anyone? This highlights a difference between how we tend to think about love in our world and how people in Biblical times saw love. What is that difference and why is it important?
3. If we are willing to concede that agape love is a choice that impacts our feelings rather than a feeling that determines our choices, when is the time to make the loving choice?
4. In the sermon some time was given to conversation about the kinds of things that contribute to the inclination not to make the loving choice. Discuss at least some of these in turn: **Impatience, unkindness, envy, boasting & arrogance, rudeness, resentfulness**. There will always be more than one factor & they will be both external and internal. Why does it matter to understand this better?
5. Choosing to love this way over and over, often in the face of episodic or even habitual unloving behaviour and words, is an impossible task. That is why this discussion on love is in the midst of a discussion on the Holy Spirit and why after Jesus instituted the new law of love he followed up by promising to send the "helper" (*John 14:15-17*). How does the Spirit help us to love as we are called to love?
6. It was pointed out in the sermon that this description of love bears significant similarities to the fruit of the Spirit in *Galatians 5:22-23*. What conclusion did James draw from that similarity?