

# 6

## Leader Guide

# What the World Needs Now

*September 10, 2023*

## Main Passage: 1 Corinthians 13

### Theological Theme

The love of Christ is the main thing the world needs to see and experience from the church today.

### Introduction

- ❓ Do you know the song “What the World Needs Now”? What context have you heard this song in? Why do you think the theme of this song has resonated through the years?
- ❓ What does this point to regarding all people’s recognition of the need to receive and give love?

### 1. Why Love? (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians is one of the most widely known and recognized passages of Scripture. It is often read in wedding ceremonies even though it was not written for this context originally. Paul sent this letter to the church at Corinth to encourage and teach the believers there.

- ❓ What are some contexts in which you have seen or heard the words of 1 Corinthians 13?
- ❓ Why are even good things of no value if not done with love? Why do our intentions matter in living out the Christian life?
- ❓ Application: Where might you have been seeking to do godly things without the motivation of Christ’s love? What needs to change?

### 2. Love Is . . . (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

If we are to be more focused on love, we need to better understand what it looks like in practice. Paul began a list of characteristics to describe the presence or absence of love.

- ❓ How does the list of characteristics describing love in these verses help you to better assess your daily motivations?
- ❓ Which of the negative descriptors do you wrestle with the most? How has Christ loved you completely in that regard?
- ❓ Application: Where are you struggling to love in “all things”? How can you relinquish control and ask the Holy Spirit to love others through you in these areas? Why must this be a daily prayer and not just a one-time thing?

### 3. Love Endures (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)

Wrapping up his point about the importance of love, Paul stressed the permanence and endurance of love over anything else. The Christians in Corinth had overemphasized the spiritual gifts, and it was time for the Corinthians to put everything in the proper perspective. Paul told them love would never fail while other gifts would have an end.

- ❓ How have you seen the truth that love never fails in your life? Consider challenging moments when you have shown or been shown godly love compared to when this love has been absent.
- ❓ What did you value or enjoy as a child that has fallen away as you've matured into an adult? What are some spiritual things that become unnecessary as we move from spiritual children into maturity?
- ❓ Application: What needs to change so that your daily focus is on faith, hope, and love? How would your life be different if this really was your sole aim?

### Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

\*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

### Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

### Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).

### Prayer Prompts:

1. How can you use your gifts, motivated by love, to bless someone in your group/ your church?
2. What characteristic of love from 1 Corinthians 13 can you practice this week in how you love others?