

Viewpoint Church

Community Group Outline

Your Community Group: A place to Love, Grow, and Serve.

Viewpoint Church CG Weekly Outline

Sermon Date: March 25, 2018

Sermon Title: Love Is - 1 Corinthians 13:7-8

Here, Paul is speaking to the church in Corinth. In Chapters 12 and 14 Paul answers their questions regarding the gifts of the spirit that they had been given. Sandwiched between these two chapters is chapter 13, and this chapter is on love. Paul told them that even if they had every gift, every blessing, every anointing, but not love, then they have nothing.

Paul goes on to say...

1. Love bears all things...

The greek word for "bears" is "stago" and it comes from the root word for "roof". Love acts as protection, in the same way a roof covers a house. Roofs are built as a protection to shelter us from (storms, rain, hail, cold, heat, etc.). We have seasons in our life where we are in the STORM. But Paul says that love, in these situations will shelter and protect us.

Paul - seek out those who are in the stormy seasons of life and build a roof over them in the way that you love them. Storms on the outside can cultivate beauty on the inside. Someone who bears all things through love protects and speaks truth to those around them.

QUESTION: If anyone is comfortable, please share a time in your life when you went through a stormy season and someone provided a "metaphorical" roof over you (i.e. provided comfort, shelter, gave love, helped...).

2. Love believes all things...

Love looks at the person in front of us and believes in that person. God wants a church who believes in one another! Regardless of how they may offend you, how much their brokenness might disturb you, etc. He wants us to look through the dysfunction and see wholeness on the other side. Love does not ignore dysfunction, love looks through it and sees wholeness! This builds an atmosphere of encouragement! This then gives us courage to step out of our dysfunction. When we are offended by the dysfunction of others, it is the opposite of love. It is rejection. This then creates an atmosphere of suppression. How do we then grow?

QUESTION: Fill in the blank...

I believe in _____ because _____.
This can be a person, a church, a cause, a goal, etc. Believe big people!

3. Love hopes all things...

God is ALL good. If God is ALL good then what he has for us are glory and riches. Because of His love, we have the greatest hope.

QUESTION: Fill in the blank...

I hope for _____.
This can be a prayer, a dream, a goal, whatever! Hope big people!

4. Love endures all things...

People who endure in all things are able to endure because they are abiding in love. The only way we are able to move forward through the hardships is to realize that it is not our burden to carry. Is the Christian church, soft? When things get hard do we dig down, do we endure and say, IM NOT MOVING!?! To do this we have to abide in Him daily. When we abide, we cannot give up because HE is the one carrying us. Giving up is not an option.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Do you believe the Christian church has become soft? Do we give up too easily in regards to: marriage, friendships, hardships, our faith walk, avoiding temptation, etc.?

5. Love NEVER ends...

Everything will cease, yet love will never end. Love will never fail and love will never end. Everything we could ever need or desire is found in His love. We need to be a people who allow God to wash us in his never-ending, reckless love. God's love is all abounding, all consuming and ALL that we need.

QUESTION: If we realize (and really believe) that God's love is all we need...how does that change what we believe we need or what we expect from our: spouse, children, friends, parents, bosses, co-workers, etc.? Ultimately, are we looking to these people for our love, acceptance and appreciation over God?

Please end your time praying for this upcoming week (Easter Week). Please pray that many people would come to know Christ this Easter. Please specifically pray for the logistics of our Good Friday Service and two Easter morning services. Thank you!