

These notes are designed to be used by small groups on Zoom, by members of a family or by a couple of friends on the telephone. They are based on our Sunday sermons and are designed to help us all think through the issues raised about “God in my Everything”. You will get the most out of them if you have heard the sermon first.

Sermon Date

Sunday 2nd May, Alan Hulme

Bible Passage

1 Corinthians 13

Theme & Introduction

This study is the 3rd in the series on Friendship as we think about our rhythms of life. In this study we will be looking at ‘love’.

Questions

1. In less than 10 words try describing what love is.....
2. 1 Corinthians 13 is often read as being about close personal relationships. Read it through together now, thinking about how it applies to church family behaviour – which is its original context. Does reading it with that mindset change how you hear the challenges of St Paul’s words? If so, how?
3. Read 1 Cor 13:4-7 and Galatians 5:22-23.
What similarities do you see?
What might that tell us about what it is to be spiritually mature?
How does that compare with the ways people often imagine spiritual maturity?
4. Read 1 Cor 13 v 1-3 again. Paul’s comparison with the clanging gong of the pagan temple is shocking, and the message he gives that 6 minus 1 = zero is stark.
[tongues+prophesy+knowledge+faith+giving+suffering – love = nothing]
Do you have experiences you can share, positive and negative, of Christian ministry with and without love? What are the implications for us?
5. Perhaps the most challenging of Paul’s statements is “*love keeps no record of wrongs*”. In silence, ask the Holy Spirit to show you anyone against whom you are “*keeping a record of wrongs*”. Ask for the grace to forgive, let it go and tear up the list. At the end of the silence, say the grace together.
6. Alan’s practical challenge was to write out the qualities St Paul lists in vv4-7, and choose one of them each morning. Then simply pray “*Holy Spirit, help me to grow in today*”. Has anyone tried that yet? Could you all attempt it every day for 40 days and hold each other accountable for trying it by simply asking how it is going each time you meet?