

THE EXCELLENCE OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- *As a group, come up with a simple definition of love. Why is it so hard to put “love” into words?*
- *Look up 1 John 4:10 and Romans 5:8. How do these two passages help give us a definition and demonstration of love?*

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time you met. Anything you need to follow up on as a group?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** this week’s passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat reminded us that God’s love calls us to three specific actions.**

God’s Love Calls Us To:

1. Examine our motivations (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

- *Respond to Pastor Pat’s statement, “Love always involves sacrifices but not all sacrifices involve love.”*
- *Can you think of a time when you acted in a “loving” way without the motivation of love? Talk about why having love as a motivation is acting like Jesus.*

2. Obey it’s ways/characteristics (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- *Which of these “love is not” characteristics do you struggle to obey?*
 - *Love is not proud*
 - *Love is not rude*
 - *Love is not angry*
 - *Love is not jealous*
 - *Love is not selfish*
 - *Love does not keep a record of wrongs*
- *Which of these “love is” characteristics do you struggle to obey?*
 - *Love is patient*
 - *Love is kind*
 - *Love is truthful*
 - *Love bears all things*
 - *Love believes all things*
 - *Love hopes all things*
 - *Love endures all things*

3. Trust the Giver of love (1 Corinthians 13:8)

- *1 John 4:8 reminds us that “God is love.” As an exercise, read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 slowly in a few Bible versions, and every time you come across the word, “love,” replace it with the name, “God.”*
- *How does this exercise change the way you think/feel/know/do about the Giver of Love?*

How will you show “agape” (unconditional) love to those around you this week?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group will “move into the Love Chapter” and live there this week, as D.L. Moody said.