

**Pastor Tim Nalley**  
**1 CORINTHIANS**  
**Part 12: What's Love Got to Do With It?**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

***We can have all the gifts that God gives, but love helps us to bear fruit. Without it, we become prideful, self-sufficient, and distracted. Thankfully, God promises to show us an even greater way!***

**Eros** = a self-gratifying "love." Eros is focused on one's self and what it can get, often in terms of pleasure. **This love is a love that takes.**

**Phileo** = a brotherly love. This is the kind of love that is based on common interests, common goals, or personalities that just seem to get along well. **This love gives and takes.**

**Agape** = the type of love that is the supernatural. This is the love that goes beyond natural affection. This love **only knows how to give and expects nothing in return.**

***Agape love is not just a feeling; it is a decision.***

**[1 Corinthians 13.1-3, NIV]**

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

**[Matthew 7.22-23a]**

*"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you..."*

**Tweet: A miracle without love is just a magic trick.**

**Tweet: Love without a miracle is "The Cross."**

**[1 Corinthians 13.4-7, NIV]**

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

***Believing the best creates margin in your relationships.***

***Nobody wants to live in an atmosphere of performance. Nobody wants to be somebody's disappointment.***

**[John 13.34, 35]**

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

***Love is the atmosphere where the gifts of the Spirit flourish.***

**Formula for a healthy relationship:**

"What You Thought" + "Believe the Best" + "What You Got"  
(Avoid "assuming the worst")

**Tweet: An environment of acceptance is created or destroyed by your response to a deficiency.**

***Spiritual gifts mature the church.***

**Tweet: My ability to "Believe the Best" in others will produce an atmosphere of acceptance.**

**[1 Corinthians 13.8-13, NIV]**

*Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

**[1 John 4.7-12]**

*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love--not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love*

*each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.*

**Tweet: To see the richest image of God is to see the church love each other.**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is a good definition of love? Is love something you fall into? Is it something you find? Is it the glue that holds people together? What's something we still need to learn about love? Is there a twist?**
- 2. What's a picture of love on earth that you can identify with?**
- 3. When you rehearse a situation in your head, are you more prone to: "believe the best" or "assume the worst"? Why do you think you lean that way? Take an opportunity this week to "believe the best."**
- 4. How do spiritual gifts mature the church? In your church experience, how have you seen that?**
- 5. What would happen if we as the church filled the gap of trust with love? How would that affect the atmosphere of our community?**
- 6. Considering verses 11-12, we look at the examples of children growing up and bronze mirrors being polished. What do these illustrations suggest about the full expression of God's love? How does that encourage you?**