

## The desire to be loved

1 Corinthians 13 & 1 John 4:7-12

### 1 Corinthians 13

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> 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 do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> 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 the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a 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. <sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

### 1 John 4:7-12

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Bible passages taken from NIV 2011

**Agree or disagree?**

**What do we mean by "love" and "being loved"?**

**Why do we desire to be loved?**

**Is our desire met?**

**What does the Bible say about love?**

**Where can we find our desire to be loved met?**

## A Bible Study

**Pray:**

Heavenly Father, help us to be considerate of each other and aware of others needs as well as our own. Help us to feel safe and confident to be self-aware. Give us faith to receive your word, understanding to know what it means and the willingness to put it into practice. May knowing you, and being known by you, be of great comfort and reassurance to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Share, listen without comment:**

- What do you understand "love" to be?
- Everyone has a desire/need/want to "be loved": Do you agree or disagree? Why? Try and support your thought with an example you've observed in people.
- Do you think people love others because they want to be loved in return?
- We hear of people "falling in love" but why do people "fall out of love"?

**Be self-aware. Just think on this, no comment.**

*Do you find you need to "be loved"? In whom do you look for that love to be met? Why?*

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 13 and 1 John 4:7-12.

**Ask and answer:**

What do we learn from these two passages about "love"?

What reasons are given for us to love?

Is this love different to what most people think of love? Why?

Do you think that God has made us with a desire to be loved? Why?

How do you keep on loving someone when they stop loving you?

**Close with a prayer.**