



Sunday. September 26. 21

Pastor Jake Magee

Belong | [Incarnate The Love](#) | 1 Corinthians 13

### God's Love Song of *Belonging*

*"Love is patient and kind..."* – Vs. 4

### 3 Attitudes that Sour the Song

#1 – "I'm Working on \_\_\_\_\_"

#2 – "I Don't Need \_\_\_\_\_ Right Now!"

#3 – "They're Getting In The \_\_\_\_\_"

## Belong | Incarnate the Love | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

### Small Group Questions

**The Big Idea** - The Corinthians believed the Christians at their church were getting in the way of their *personal spiritual development*. Because of this, they began to create distance from each other. Paul challenges this by telling us that the true measurement for maturity is *genuine love for people*, and therefore we need to get closer to each other, not farther apart. “Yes,” this love will involve deep and sometimes difficult relationships; relationships that bring out the “ugly” in us. And they’ll usually require defining personal success with helping others to succeed, not just ourselves. But herein is the secret to becoming like Jesus who has loved us in this way.

#### Getting Started

1) 1 Corinthians 13 is a pro-love song. Name as many pro & anti love songs as you can.

#### Digging Deeper (Read 1 Corinthians 13)

2) Paul says love has everything to do with how we regard and treat others. Where do you see that in the passage?

3) A couple of spiritual gifts are mentioned in verses 1-3. The bigger context shows that some were using these gifts in unloving ways.

a) Discuss some possible ways they were misusing their gifts in a church service.

b) If they weren’t using their gifts to build others up, what were they using them for? Get specific.

4) Some felt that *powerful gifts* and *great successes* were the measurement of spiritual maturity instead of love. Why did they believe that? And how do people come to that conclusion today?

5) There tends to be an emphasis today on using our gifts and resources to focus on our personal growth.

a) How were the Corinthians doing this?

b) Give some examples of times when a person may need to focus on their own spiritual health.

c) Talk about ways we might improperly use our gifts and resources like the Corinthians did theirs.

6) Truly belonging to a church family will sometimes involve having our selfishness exposed. It's never fun to realize how much work you need! But this is also the environment where he makes us selfless and Christ-like. Read through each of the statements of verses 4-8.

a) How do most of these statements presume conflict and connect it with personal growth?

b) What's one quality of love you need the most work on.

7) Think about a bike with training wheels. Training wheels help a child learn how to ride a bike so well that they won't need training wheels anymore. Paul says (in so many words) that the gifts and abilities Christians have are like training wheels to help us learn how to love people (vss.8-13). And one day, we'll be rid of those gifts. Given the imagery, why is it so strange for the Corinthians (or *us* for that matter) to spend most of our time trying to be the best we can be with the gifts that we have?

### **Making It Real**

8) The list in verses 4-8 could easily describe Jesus.

a) Go through each characteristic and talk about how they point to who Jesus is and what he has done for us.

b) Why is keeping Jesus in the forefront of our lives important for growing in love through belonging?

Pray with each other about the characteristic of love you'd like to grow in.

### **RAYER Requests**

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