

Introduction:

Every fall, Cokesbury spends a few weeks exploring our core values: Love God, Love People, and Share Hope. Together, we'll look at what each one means for us as followers of Jesus and as his church.

Scripture:

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. 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. 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.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, 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.

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 completeness comes, what is in part 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 the ways of childhood behind me. 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.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

– 1 Corinthians 13



Discussion Questions:

1. What are the pet peeves that you have? Have those changed over the years? Do you have more now than three years ago? What do these tell us about our growth in love?

2. What inconveniences you? Why do you think our society places such a high value on convenience?

3. Galatians 5 tells us that what matters most is faith expressed in love. What does that look like to you? What simple ways can it be expressed? When have you seen elaborate demonstrations of it?

4. Have you thought about the fact that Jesus always gives us more than we ask for?

5. 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter is in the middle of two chapters that describe the messy, difficult people who were in the church at Corinth. How does that impact the call for us to Love others?

6. What is the most interesting thing that you have learned about love?

7. Who can you love this week, who comes to mind?