

***The Cross and Your Love***

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

April 3, 2022

**Introduction:** What does it tell you that one of the most brilliant minds in history made this his Number One goal: "I want to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2)? Though it strikes our ears as narrow and anti-intellectual, for Paul it was just the opposite. Because for him this crucified Jesus was opening a breadth of life and a fresh way of thinking that inverts all of the old ways. And he does the same for Paul's sensitive readers today.

**Prayer:** Father God, thank you for your unfailing, unconditional, undeserved love for us. Help us think together about how we love through the lens of your love which does not depend on us. Guide us to a deeper understanding of your love as we study your word together. Amen.

**Review:** As you reflected upon your current relational status this week, what special opportunities to glorify God did you discover (or re-discover)? How do you plan to use these opportunities?

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**Discuss:**

1. How does the absence of love limit human attempts of learning, teaching and sacrifice?
2. From these verses list what love is and what love is not. (Look at several different translations to get a fuller understanding of what Paul is saying.) Which of these are easy for you to show, which are more difficult?
3. How has knowing Jesus enabled you to love others more fully?
4. What does it mean to you that God already knows you completely?

**Application:** Paul closes by naming Faith and hope along with love. Think about how your life reflects these three spiritual gifts. Which do you have in abundance? Which are in short supply? Ask God this week for help in using your abundance and filling your need.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus you call upon each of us to love one another with the kind of sacrificial love you demonstrated for us on the cross. Grant us the courage to love others from the secure foundation of your love for us today and in the days to come. Amen