

## A Great Church is 'Rich in Love'

1 Corinthians 13 – West End - 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018, Central and Lordshill 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### **Introduction**

On Sunday we opened by discussing Bishop Michael Curry's address at the Royal Wedding. Did any of you watch the wedding? What did you make of his speech?

Pete mentioned the world is searching for Love. In what way do you think this is true of the world around you? What areas can you see where people are 'longing for true love'? (i.e. broken families, parent-child relationship, deep friendships / companionships, communities, loneliness / suicide rates, partners – Little stat - 9 million people in UK report feeling lonely regularly)

### **Digging in (Read Passage 1 Corinthians 13)**

Context of the passage is application of Spiritual Gifts primarily. However, Paul is clearly going beyond that and applying to the wider areas of church life in Corinth.

1 – Love Underpinning Us (Verses 1-3) – [this should be quite quick...3 mins]

The first three verses in here refer directly to how we apply Our spiritual gifts. If we don't do them out of a place of love, we are like "a resounding gong or clanging cymbal". If you as the leader of the study and have an example of when you have applied a gift not out of a place of Love, then perhaps share it.

Depending on how much time you have, you may have to choose to do just one of two or three. Pick which you think is most appropriate to your group.

2 – Love defining us (Verses 4-7) [Approx. 15 mins]

Question – From these verses what does Love look like?

Question – How does this look with reference to application of spiritual gifts?

- *Either...* Question – From all these characteristics of Love are there any you feel you perhaps need to work on? Turn and discuss in a pair? Pray for one another that the Love of God would 'fill' you so deeply that this area would change.
- *Alternatively, if you feel more appropriate – zone in on verse 7 - <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* Are there areas in your life where you need God's persevering Love? Or situation where you need breakthrough? (if major things come up – perhaps prayer straight away).

3 – Love staying with us (Verses 8-13) [Approx. 15 minutes]

Eternal perspective- Spiritual gifts will fall away; love will remain as God is a God of Love – it is fundamentally who he is.

Question – What do you think of when you think of eternity with God?

The bible often encourages us to have an eternal perspective. Romans 8v17 says we our "co-heirs with Christ".

Question - What will be our inheritance? (Romans 4v13 – The Earth, Philippians 3v21 – New Bodies, Psalm 73v25 – The fullness of God). Question – How will that affect the way we live now?

**Rounding off** Pray together as a group that we would be a church that is underpinned and defined by love and lives in light of eternity.