

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Corinthians 13

Lesson 19

1 Corinthians 13 is one of the most cherished chapters in the Bible. In the midst of a corrupt and disintegrating first century culture and into a Christian congregation characterized by division, dissension, and disorder, this thirteenth chapter shines as the beauty and brightness of a morning sunrise on a cloudless day. It introduces us to the quality of life that could never be known or experienced outside of Jesus Christ. As you study, keep in mind the closing statement of 1 Corinthians 12: *And yet I show you a more excellent way.*

DAY ONE: Read 1 Corinthians 13

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 1 Corinthians 13 has been divided into three sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-3

Verses 4-7

Verses 8-13

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for chapter 13.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Key words (all new to this lesson): *love*, the phrases *though I (have)* and *but have not*.

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 13. Remember, as you mark the key word *love* to mark the word *is* as it relates to the word *love*. Example in verse 4: *Love suffers long as is kind.*

4. Using the key phrases you marked from question 2, complete the following chart.

verse	<i>Though I</i>	<i>But have not</i>	(Result)
1			
2			
3			

DAY TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1. The context of chapter 13 is linked primarily to 1 Corinthians 12 and 14. In those chapters, Paul deals with *spiritual gifts* and the proper use of them in public worship services. Now, in chapter 13, he instructs the believer in a *more excellent way* of exercising these gifts. List the gifts mentioned in these first three verses.

a. Which one seems most spectacular or admirable to you? Why?

1.) Comment on the consequences if it is not done in *love*.

2. Why would exercising any of these spiritual gifts without *love* be *unprofitable*?

3. What is so important about *love*?

4. In what ways is *love* manifested through spiritual gifts?

5. How might receiving a spiritual gift cause a person to lose perspective and lose sight of the importance of *love*?

a. In what way will applying 1 Corinthians 4:7 cause a person to have the right perspective?

DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 13:4,5

1. It has been said that 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 describes fifteen facets of love. List nine of these from verses 4 and 5 in the left hand column of the following chart. Define each facet or characteristic of love by using other versions, a dictionary, or your own words.

Facet of <i>love</i>	Definition
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	

2. According to Colossians 1:11, how are we enabled to *suffer long*?

a. What is the attitude in this verse that accompanies *patience* and *longsuffering*?

1.) Why does James 1:2-4 tells us we can have *joy* in trials?

a.) Given all of the answers in question #2, how is someone who knows the love of God able to *suffer long*?

3. In the nine facets of love listed in 1 Corinthians 4 and 5, seven are listed in the negative (revealing how love does **not** behave). Record the positive side (opposites) for each one.

Love does not envy: Example: love wants others to have things

Love does not parade itself:

Love is not puffed up:

Love does not behave rudely:

Love does not seek its own:

Love is not provoked:

Love thinks no evil:

3. In which facet of 1 Corinthians 13:4,5 do you find yourself most deficient?

a. What might you do to change in this area?

1.) What would you need to do to apply your above answer?

4. In which facet of 1 Corinthians 13:4,5 do you find yourself to be strongest?

5. In what situations or circumstances do you find it most easy to *love*?

a. When is it most difficult?

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 13:6,7

1. Continue your list of these facets of *love* by adding the remaining six from 1 Corinthians 13:6,7. Define each facet or characteristic of love by using other versions, a dictionary, or your own words.

Facet of <i>love</i>	Definition
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

2. Human nature often takes more pleasure in hearing of someone's misfortune or failure than in their good fortune. *Love* rejoices in hearing good reports about others. Why do you think people sometimes take pleasure in hearing about others' failures?

a. Record the consequences of gloating over someone's failures or calamities from Proverbs 17:5.

1.) What does Proverbs 24:17,18 add to this?

3. Think about the phrase *love bears all things*. We think of *bearing* as carrying someone's burden. The Greek word translated *bears* is literally *roof, to roof over or cover*. So, love builds a cover over. Write what 1 Peter 4:8 says about this.
 - a. When is it appropriate to cover a sin and when is it necessary to expose it?

4. *Love believes all things* is translated in the Amplified Bible as *love is ever ready to believe the best*. How does this translation help you to understand that the phrase *love believes all things* does not mean we are to blindly believe everything that is said to us?

5. *Love hopes all things*. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16,17. God has given us a *good hope*. Describe the *hope* that we now have because of Jesus.

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

1. *Love never fails* – never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end (verse 8). Again we see the superiority of *love* over any spiritual gifts. What will happen to these gifts? 1 Corinthians 13:8

- a. When will this happen? verse 10

Note: *Perfect* has been defined this way: “the perfect state of all things to be ushered in by the return of Christ from heaven” (Thayer)

2. When Jesus returns for the church the gifts will no longer be needed. Why? Answer using Philippians 3:20,21 and 1 John 3:2.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. How does the comparison of childish ways with those of an adult relate to Paul's statement in verse 12?

4. What do you learn about *now* and *then* from 1 Corinthians 13:12? Answer by filling in the following chart:

<i>Now</i>	<i>Then</i>

- a. Contrast the difference between seeing something reflected in a *mirror* and viewing something *face to face*.

5. Relate from 1 Corinthians 13:13 the things that will last eternally.

- a. Of the three, which is the *greatest*?

DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 13

1. Share one insight from this chapter that has worked in your life to change your attitudes or actions.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 aloud substituting your name for the word *love*. How truthful does it sound? Share your reaction.

3. In what way does 1 Corinthians 13 challenge you to examine your motives, thoughts, and behavior?

4. In light of this chapter, why is *love* the *more excellent way*?

5. What encourages you and blesses you the most in this chapter?

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

-1 John 3:16 NIV

Scripture References for Lesson 19

DAY TWO:

1 Cor. 4:7 For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

DAY THREE:

Col. 1:11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

DAY FOUR:

Proverbs 17:5 He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 24:17-18 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; ¹⁸Lest the LORD see *it*, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "*love will cover a multitude of sins.*"

2 Thes. 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

DAY FIVE:

Philip. 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

DAY SIX:

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. NIV