

## Love Looks Up | 1 Corinthians 13:5 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To practice loving others in a way that is less selfish and less insistent on our own way.

### Icebreaker:

Has a friend or your spouse ever rightfully accused you of acting selfishly? Describe a time when you were blind to and then realized your own selfishness.

### Discussion:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 out loud. Take a moment to review. What is one thing that has struck you about what love is from this sermon series so far?

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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

2. 1 Corinthians 13:5 says that true love is “not self-seeking.” What does that mean? How would you put that in your own words?
3. Who has shown you an example of self-sacrificial love in your life? What affect did their love have on you?
4. Early in his sermon, Dave asked the question: “how stupid is it to live a life that is self-seeking?” What are some ways that living a self-seeking life is so foolish?

5. 1 John 4:8 says that at the heart of the gospel is the God who is not self-seeking but is self-sacrificial in his love. We can't really love until we know this God. What are some ways that God has shown self-sacrificial love for us?

1 John 4:8 – Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

6. Dave mentioned three practical ways that love is not self-seeking along with three proverbs to show the wisdom of each. Read the following list and proverbs together. Which one of these three ways is most challenging to you personally? How so?

Doesn't have to defend our honor against every disrespectful or critical comment.

- Proverbs 20:3 – It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Doesn't have to be right in every conflict.

- Proverbs 18:2 – Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.

Doesn't have to get fairness in every situation.

- Proverbs 19:11 – A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

7. What would you need to believe differently about God/self/others to be able to live more like this (less selfishly and more self-sacrificially)?
8. What area of your life do you need to live out self-sacrificial love this week? Consider your friendships, marriage, social media, work, and church. How can you do that, specifically?

### Sharing and Prayer:

Sharing openly, listening well, and praying for each other is a significant way that we can practice self-sacrificial love. Where in your life do you need God's love and others' love for you this week? Share one or two ways you need the support of God and others this week. Pray for one another.