



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, May 21, 2023 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

The Greatest of These

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1. Spiritual virtues are meaningless without love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

2. Love is an others-oriented commitment. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)



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Sermon Notes

3. Many kinds of spiritual virtues have and will disappear, but love is the greatest abiding virtue. (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)

Table Talk

- 1) What four virtues are made meaningless by the absence of love? (vv. 1-3) Why do you think that love is so important in order for other virtues to be effective? How has the presence or absence of love affected your spiritual life, your marriage, your relationships?
- 2) Make a list from verses 4-7 of what love is, what love is not, and what love does. What are some practical ways that you can practice this kind of love in the church? How has a close examination of verses 4-7 helped you think about how to love better? What are some common definitions of love? How does the biblical definition of love as an others-oriented commitment differ from the common definitions?
- 3) What virtues will cease? (v. 8) How does Paul call upon our hope for the New Creation to help us think about the importance of love rather than spiritual gifts? Why does Paul give the analogy of the progress of development of a human being to the progress of development of the church? (vv. 8-12)
- 4) In what ways is love greater than the other enduring virtues of faith and hope? (v. 13) How do you hope to apply this understanding of biblical love in your relationships? In your church?