

LIFE GROUP

Leader Guide

LOVE

THE GREATEST OF THESE

FALL 2025 SERMON SERIES



wentzville
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

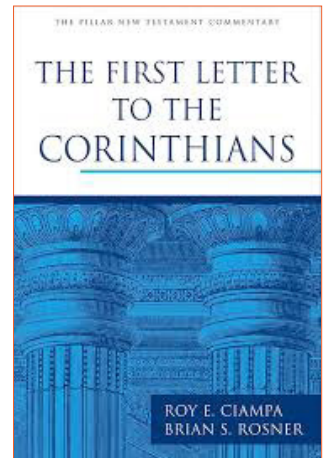
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COMMENTARY FOR “THE GREATEST OF THESE” STUDY



LETTER FROM KEITH

Hey WCC Family!

First of all, I want to thank our Life Group Leaders for the incredible role they play in leading and shepherding our groups. Their investment of time, prayer, and energy makes a real difference in people's lives. Y'all Rock!

As we begin our new study, "The Greatest of These," based on 1 Corinthians 13, I'm excited for what God will do in and through our groups. This passage reminds us that faith, knowledge, sacrifice, and giftedness all have value, but without love, they amount to nothing. Paul points us to the heart of the Christian life—love that reflects Christ Himself. As a church, we've been hitting on the theme of "Go Love" all year, and my prayer is that this study will continue to foster a heart for loving others in Jesus' Name!

As you spend time studying together, remember:

- Keep it simple. Don't feel pressure to have all the answers, but rather, how can I grow in my love for others and actually live this out?
- Focus on transformation, not just information. Let God's Word shape hearts, not just fill minds.
- Pray regularly for each other and how we love and practice the Greatest of These!

Thank you again for caring and loving one another. I believe God will use this series to deepen our understanding of His love and to grow us into a church marked by love above all else.

Grateful for you,
Keith Comp
Senior Minister

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. Share with your group a moment when you witnessed inspiring humility. Who was it and what did they do?
2. If you were to summarize in a few sentences what is wrong with the world today, what would you say?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Today, we are going to be talking about pride. We are going to be unpacking 1 Corinthians 13:4e, “Love is not proud.” First, let’s define pride. Read the verses below out loud as a group and discuss what you learn about pride within these verses.

a. Psalm 10:4	d. Proverbs 21:4
b. Proverbs 8:13	e. Isaiah 2:12
c. Proverbs 11:2	
2. C.S. Lewis was quoted saying, “The essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.” Lewis claims that all other vices and sins can tie back to pride. How does your group’s answers about what’s wrong with the world connect back to pride?
3. Over the last five weeks, you have been discovering the context of the letter to the church in Corinth. You have been investigating what has been going on behind the scenes. Look back at three of the previous issues your group has explored regarding the Corinthian church and discuss how pride is tied into each of them.
 - a. Wealthier believers in the Corinthian church who didn’t have to work would arrive early, eat most of the meal, and get drunk on the wine that was meant for communion. Poorer believers who did have to work would arrive later and not have anything to eat. On top of that, there were divisions in how they sat. The wealthy made a point to sit at their own tables, creating separation from those in a different economic or social class.

- b. Certain gifts of the Holy Spirit were being valued more than others. Some members were devaluing their own gifts, feeling inferior or less important compared to others. Some members were elevating their own gifts flaunting it over others in the church.
 - c. The Corinthian Church service was becoming a place of spiritual showmanship. As they spoke in tongues, the church was interrupting one another in the name of seeking attention, creating a chaotic environment where different members of the congregation sought to boast about their spirituality.
4. **Pride was everywhere in the Corinthian church. How might pride show up in a church or small group setting?**
5. **In 2 Corinthians, we learn that the church in Corinth realized their arrogance and apologized to Paul. Paul then says to the church in Corinth in 2 Corinthians 7:4, “I have spoken to you with great frankness; I take great pride in you.” What is the difference between healthy pride and unhealthy pride?**
 - a. Healthy pride says, “Look what God has enabled me/us to do.” Unhealthy pride says, “Look what I did—I don’t need God or others.”
6. **Instead of living a life of pride, Jesus embodied a life of humility. Read aloud Philippians 2:1-11. How do we see examples of Jesus’ humility?**
7. **With what we’ve learned about pride and humility, what are some examples of ways you have struggled with pride? How would more humility change the situation?**
8. **Gather prayer requests as a group and then close in prayer.**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Pioneer Bible Translators - Nathan and Amy Tuley

Pioneer Bible Translators exist to disciple the Bibleless, mobilizing God's people to provide enduring access to God's Word. Their vision is to see transformed lives through God's Word in every language. Nathan and Amy work with all of PBT through the website, IT, and editing to share the gospel with the world.

CONNECT QUESTION

1. “What’s an ‘unwritten rule’ that everyone knows and it’s dishonoring if you break it? (Not talking during a movie, not whispering in a library, cutting the Thanksgiving turkey before Grandpa, etc.)
2. With the examples mentioned, why would some consider breaking those rules to be rude? **Leaders’ Note:** As you listen to the answers, try to direct the group’s focus onto the people being affected. For example, others can’t hear the movie when you talk during the movie.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Today, we will be unpacking Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians 13:5a, “Love does not dishonor others.” The Greek verb for dishonor refers to behavior that is disgraceful, rude, or indecent. Together, we will be investigating the letter of 1st Corinthians to discover what disgraceful and indecent behavior was occurring in the church. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2.
2. **Based on these two verses, what indecent action is happening in the church? What are the Corinthians’ responses to these actions and what is Paul’s response?**
 - a. Most scholars agree that when Paul mentions “His father’s wife,” he is referring to a stepmother, not his biological mother. Otherwise, Paul would have said “his mother.”
 - b. We see the same word dishonor in Leviticus 18:7 when God’s law addresses incestuous relationships. “Do not dishonor your father by having sexual relations with your mother. She is your mother; do not have relations with her.”
3. **This incestuous relationship wasn’t the only dishonoring action carried out by the Corinthian church. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-17. What was going on within the church that was indecent and disgraceful?**
 - a. Some in the Corinthian church were promoting a doctrine of sexual freedom. We have the right to do anything! This worldview led them to have sexual relations with temple prostitutes.

LEADERS' NOTE: The rest of this material delves into sensitive topics. At this point in your discussion, separate into male and female groups to discuss the rest of the material in two separate groups.

4. **Genesis 1:27 says, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” All people are created in the image of God and therefore every person has God-given worth, value, and dignity. To dishonor someone sexually (through exploitation, infidelity, or immorality) is not just about breaking a rule — it’s about treating someone as an object instead of a sacred image-bearer. How does this Biblical view of personhood go against how our culture views one another?**
 - a. “To treat another human being as a mere instrument of one’s own desire is to dehumanize them, and thus to deny the image of God in them.” -N.T. Wright
5. **In both examples of dishonoring in 1 Corinthians 5 and 6, the church adopted a posture of tolerance and approval. Have there been or are there currently sins that you tolerate because of a fleshly desire (pornography, lustful looks, inappropriate dreaming, etc)? Share those within your group.**

LEADER’S NOTE: Try your best to avoid overreaction, shame language, and immediate correction. If someone steps up in a moment of vulnerability, thank that person for their honesty.

6. **The Bible’s message is two-fold. Number one, when there is sexual immorality in our midst, we need to repent and change our behavior immediately. And secondly, when we repent, God is ready to offer us grace and forgiveness. For you, which of the two do you have a harder time believing and obeying?**
7. **Conclude your group time by praying within your subgroup over some of what was shared tonight. Pray for strength, accountability, and purity as you seek to honor others.**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: High Hill Christian Camp & Retreat Center

High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center’s goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God’s wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus.

CONNECT QUESTION

1. Today, we will learn about how love is not self-seeking. Who in your life embodies the principle of sacrificing for the sake of someone else?
2. With the examples shared, in what ways are they putting themselves aside and how are the people around them being lifted up?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. For love to be not self-seeking, the individual must let go of their own interest or edification and instead seek the interest and edification of others. Unfortunately, the Corinthian church wasn't very good at this. Think back to what your group has learned over the last few months. In what ways did the Corinthian church struggle with self-seeking?
2. Today, let's look at one specific issue within the church where the Corinthians were only focusing on their own interest. As a group, divide 1 Corinthians 8 as necessary and read it out loud.
 - a. In the city of Corinth, idolatry and temple worship were everywhere. Within these temples, sacrificial meals were a common practice. When an animal was sacrificed in a temple, only part of it was burned. The rest was eaten at temple feasts or sold in the marketplace. Some believers thought it was fine to eat food that had been sacrificed to idols.. They reasoned: "Idols aren't real gods (1 Cor 8:4), so eating the meat doesn't mean anything." Other believers were deeply troubled. For newer believers (especially those who had recently left idol worship), eating that food felt like participating in idolatry again. It wounded their conscience.
3. With the context of 1 Corinthians 8 in mind, reread the chapter as a group and identify where self-seeking might have been occurring.
 - a. Verse 9 says, "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak." Some in the church, in the name of their rights, ate meat sacrificed to idols even though it had a negative impact on the believers around them.

4. In your opinion, what is at the root of self-seeking? What causes someone to adopt this posture?
5. Have someone in your group read aloud 1 John 3:16. How does this verse relate to what we have been talking about today?
6. Love is not self-seeking. Read the three hypothetical scenarios below and discuss how our topic today speaks to them.
 - a. Two Christian friends get together for a meal. One Christian, who likes to have a glass of wine with his meal, knows that his friend is a recovering alcoholic and is now completely opposed to alcohol.
 - b. Two Christian friends are getting together on Halloween. One Christian wants to dress up and go trick-or-treating. The other believer is convinced about the origins of the holiday and doesn't want to celebrate.
 - c. Two Christian friends are on a road trip. One Christian wants to play secular music without conviction issues. The other believer may feel that the same secular music stirs old temptations.
7. For you personally, in what areas of your life do you tend to be self-seeking? What would it look like to adopt an others-first posture?
8. We have another life-group challenge for you! Hopefully, over the last few months, you have been building relationships with the people sitting around you. In the name of being others-focused, this week, we want you to find someone you've met in the congregation and invite them out to dinner. You could take them out to eat or you can prepare a meal for them in your home.

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Team Expansion: Tim & Amy Maxson

The Maxsons work at Fellowship Dubai church in the Middle East and are making disciples of migrant workers. The Maxson family has five children. teamexpansion.org.

CONNECT QUESTION

1. Before we begin the study, last week we challenged you to invite someone sitting next to you out to a meal. How did the conversations go? Were you able to schedule a meal with anyone?
 - a. Note: If your group forgot or didn't participate, encourage them to try it again this Sunday!
2. Hopefully, you are now comfortable enough with your group to ask this question! What is your biggest pet peeve?
 - a. For extra fun, if you have married couples in your group, have them answer on behalf of their spouses.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Today, we are going to be discussing 1 Corinthians 13:5c, which states, "Love is not easily angered." According to Gallup, a global research company, the frequency of people experiencing anger increased every year from 2014 to 2023. As a planet, why are we becoming more and more angry? What's contributing to this growth?
2. While anger is becoming increasingly common, our study of 1 Corinthians reveals that anger was a prevalent emotion within the church. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 1:10-12. What was the church fighting about and what impact was it having on their community?
 - a. The Corinthian society valued eloquent speech, debate, and prestige. Greeks often rallied behind philosophers and teachers like Plato and Aristotle. This type of rallying behind leaders bled into the church as different believers attached themselves to various leaders. This led to division, quarreling, and anger.
3. In the first week of our study, we discussed how 1 Corinthians 13 is about our love for one another as a church. While the chapter has been historically used for weddings and marriages, the original context of chapter thirteen is addressed to the church. Consider the Church in America today; do we struggle with anger toward one another? Why or why not?

4. **Have someone in your group read 1 Corinthians 1:13-17.**
5. **Paul's point is that Christ Himself is one. He's not divided into pieces catering to different, fragmented alliances. How does this idea of a unified Jesus speak into the anger we might experience within the Church?**
6. **Paul declares in verse 10 that the church needs to be "Perfectly united in mind and thought." What would it look like for the Corinthian church to grow in this area? Consider some of the other Corinthian struggles we've discussed over the last two months within your answer.**
7. **What would it look like for the American church to be less angry and more united in mind and thought?**
8. **Close your group time by passing out post-it notes or pieces of paper to each group member. Have each person write down a name or two of someone they are currently quarreling or divided against within the church. It could be an individual or a group. If your members don't have someone in mind, have them write down the name of someone within the church they used to be divided against or a group within the global Church that brings about frustration in their mind. After each person has written down the names, close by praying these three prayers over your group.**
 - a. **Pray that your group would let go of any source of anger that may be in their heart. Pray that they would release that to God.**
 - b. **Pray that God would soften your group's heart toward the person with whom they may be frustrated with. Pray that God would help your group see each person as made in the image of God.**
 - c. **Pray that if any action steps of reconciliation need to be taken, God would bring those to everyone's mind. Pray that your group would have the courage to take those steps to seek reconciliation.**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Central Christian College of the Bible

The goal of Central Christian College of the Bible is to raise up servant leaders for the church and to do so as affordable as possible. This week, our students are competing at Bible Bowl, which CCCB is hosting. Please be praying for them!

CONNECT QUESTION

1. What's a silly conflict from your childhood that you remember being involved in?
2. Why do you think it's so easy to remember conflict moments from our past?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. While the examples we shared earlier are humorous, many of us have serious conflict moments from our past that remain fresh in our minds. Those moments of long-held anger can turn into anger, anxiety, bitterness, and hardened hearts. In 1st Corinthians 13:5d, Paul reminds the Corinthian church that, "Love keeps no record of wrongs." Last week, we talked about this messy church was fighting over which leader they followed. Today, we're going to learn about another conflict occurring within Corinth. Have someone in your group read 1 Corinthians 6:7-8.
2. Based on these two verses, what wrongdoing is the church committing against one another?
 - a. These verses reveal that Christians were initiating lawsuits against other Christians within the church. Furthermore, there was a culture of cheating and wrongdoing within the Corinthian congregation. Paul asserts that it would be better if the church were being cheated against. Unfortunately, these believers were the ones sinning.
3. Let's dive deeper into the context of these lawsuits and what sort of cheating may have occurred. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 6:1-6 and then read the context explanation below.
 - a. Commentary from Commentaries: A number of details in the passage point to the case being a civil rather than a criminal matter. It is described as consisting of "the things of this life" (v. 3), a "dispute with another" (v. 1), involving one party accusing the other of "cheating" or fraud (vv. 7-8). In Roman Corinth, such cases involved matters like legal possession, breach of contract, damages, fraud, or injury.

4. **Paul's main issue with the Corinthians was not that these conflicts were occurring within believers. His frustration was that these conflicts were being taken before a secular non-Christian court. Why might Paul have an issue with this?**
 - a. Roman courts were very different than our American courts today. The courts in ancient Rome were susceptible to bribery and frequently favored those with higher social status and greater power. These spaces needed unified Christians sharing the Gospel, not squabbling believers not living a life transformed by the Gospel.
5. **In verses 5-8, Paul uses the Greek word for brother four times. Why do you think he uses this word, and how does it relate to conflict?**
6. **Conflicts among sinful, broken people is inevitable. That includes Christians! Paul is advocating not for a conflict-free church but for a church that handles conflict in the right way. Love keeps no record of wrongs! Love settles conflict; it doesn't hold onto it. Instead of taking these conflicts to a secular court, brainstorm some better ways the church could have handled these conflicts.**
7. **With the answers just shared, conclude your time by discussing how WCC can be a place where conflict is handled in the right way. What would it look like for your life group to be a place where there is no record of wrongs?**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Team Expansion: Allen & Cherry Messimer – Taiwan

The Messimers have served as missionaries in Taiwan since 2004. Their mission is to evangelize, disciple, and provide training so every believer can use his or her gifts in a simple church ministry. This also means every church can start new, indigenous churches. Over 90% of Taiwanese people still worship idols. teamexpansion.org

CONNECT QUESTION

1. Today is our final Life Group study for the fall. Thinking back over the last few months, what have been some of the most impactful truths you have learned?
2. Through this study of 1st Corinthians 13, has anything changed about how you live your life and relate to the church?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Our final description of love in 1st Corinthians 13 summarizes every other statement of love Paul has made thus far. In 1 Corinthians 13:6, Paul says that “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth.” How can that statement summarize everything your group has discussed to this point?
2. Speaking of summarizing statements, Paul begins and ends the letter of 1st Corinthians with a discussion about the resurrection of Jesus. Have a few members of your group read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. In these verses, what do we learn about the resurrection of Jesus?
3. Have someone in your group read 1 Corinthians 15:12. How is the Corinthian church handling the truth of the resurrection?
 - a. Commentary from Commentaries: It is possible that the Corinthians thought that references to Christ’s resurrection had to do with an improvement in his spiritual status similar to the apotheosis which the Roman emperors were believed to experience, being promoted to divine rank or stature after their death. If so, they may have understood the Christian hope of resurrection to be a way of referring to an expectation that they would also be granted divine stature by God after they died. This was not the hope offered by Christ and the apostles, but only a shadowy parody of it. The gospel message was wrapped up in the bodily resurrection of Christ and its promise of the restoration and renewal of human life and creation, not an escape to some disembodied, ethereal world.

4. **In denying the resurrection, Paul asserts that you are denying the foundation of faith. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 15:13-19. How does the resurrection of Jesus relate to us today?**
 - a. If resurrection isn't possible, then our preaching about Jesus' resurrection is false witness. On top of that, without the resurrection, we would stay stuck in our sins which leads to death. It's because Jesus overcame death that we have the hope of overcoming death. We can experience new life and victory over sins because that's what Jesus accomplished through his resurrection.
5. **If we go back to our main text today, Paul describes love as something that does not delight in evil. Think of an example in history of someone who delighted in evil. What would a resurrection of their life look like if they overcame their sin?**
6. **Instead of delighting in evil, love rejoices in truth. Unlike the church in Corinth, when we believe and surrender to the truth of Scripture, we experience resurrection and new life. Every single one of us has areas of sin that we want to see victory over. Have each person in your group share an area of their life that they would love to see spiritual growth in.**
7. **For each answer, what would it look like to rejoice in truth over that area?**
8. **Your life group this fall has helped one another rejoice in truth and grow into resurrection life. Here is your final life group challenge for the fall. Over the last few months, you have been building a relationship with the people you sit around on Sunday morning. Prayerfully consider inviting those people into your life group. Invite them to experience your resurrection community. As a group, discuss if there are any that would potentially be interested and what the logistics of adding them would look like.**
9. **Conclude your time by planning a life group Christmas party and discussing any changes to make as you continue in the spring. Our series next year will be diving into Jesus' Sermon on the Mount!**

Leader's Note: If you are planning to add new members, reach out to Jessica Parsons, WCC's Ministry Assistant. Her email is jessica@wentzvillecc.org. Thanks for studying with us this fall!

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Strong Tower Ranch

Strong Tower Ranch is a Christ-centered refuge offering hope and equipping the next generation. STR offers day camps, horsemanship camps, and retreats geared toward helping students grow in their faith journey!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT WCC:

TRUNK OR TREAT

- GAMES
- DANCING
- BARREL TRAIN
- FOOD TRUCKS
- CANDY
- AND MORE!

OCTOBER 19
4-5:30PM
@ WCC

WENTZVILLECC.ORG/TRUNK

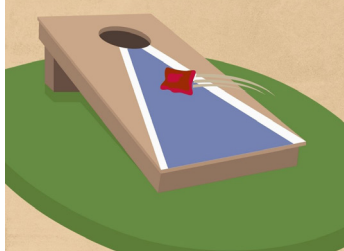


FAMILY dedication

November 9 | wentzvillecc.org/kidz

BEAN BAGS & BARBECUE

SIGN UP ON YOUR CONNECTION CARD OR AT WENTZVILLECC.ORG/MEN



MEN'S EVENT

TEENS ARE WELCOME

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

TIME: 11:30AM-2:30PM

BRING: BBQ, A SIDE, OR A DESSERT AND A CORNHOLE SET (IF YOU HAVE ONE)

2025 Dinner Theater production of
BY PAT COOK

THE CHRISTMAS EXPRESS

Thur Dec 4th 6PM
Fri Dec 5th 6PM
Sat Dec 6th 12PM & 5PM



Tickets On Sale Now

wentzvillecc.org/cdt

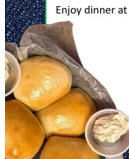


DINE TO DONATE

FUNDRAISER EVENT

Thursday, November 6 | 3-10pm

Enjoy dinner at Texas Roadhouse and 10% of your sales will go to wentzvilleKids for events throughout the year.
Make sure to mention Wentzville Christian Church or Bring a Flyer.



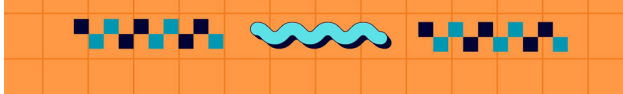
wentzvilleKidz

10%



PRETEEN SMALL GROUPS

WEDNESDAYS | 6:30-8PM | 3RD-5TH GRADE



WENTZVILLECC.ORG/EVENTS



WSM NITE



GAMES
MESSAGE
DISCUSSION
\$5 MEAL

6:30-8:00

WEDNESDAY

JOIN US!

