

**A Beautiful Mess: Wow! How?**  
Core Group Discussion Guide  
01-07-2018

**Message Overview:**

This passage is often used as a wedding scripture, however, this passage is about love in the church. This scripture is sandwiched between two chapters on spiritual gifts and how they function in the church. Paul's main points in this scripture are: Spiritual gifts without love are empty and lack substance, the spiritual gifts are going to pass away when the perfection (Jesus Christ) returns, love will complete us, unconditional love (Greek: Agape) is impossible for us to always do, we need God's grace to love well in the church, and out of the main spiritual disciplines (faith, hope and love) love in action is the greatest. The church is a place in which we learn, practice and mature in the love described in this passage.

**Text:**

1 Corinthians 13  
1 John 3:1-3

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Out of the three categories of gifts listed in vs. 1-3 (gifts of utterance, gifts of wonder working, gifts of practical ministry): where do your spiritual gifts lie?
2. As you use your gifts in the church have you felt like you are not heard, not valued as a person or it does no good?
3. What brings you purpose in using your spiritual gifts?
4. What demonstrates maturity in loving your brothers and/or sisters in church?
5. Which one of the "love always..." in vs. 7 do you struggle with the most (protects or bears up, trusts, hopes or perseveres)? Comes easy to you? Where have you seen the most growth in these in your church life and/or family?
6. How does grace effect your loving?
7. In The Message version of the Bible faith, hope and love are translated "trust steadily in God", "hope unswervingly", and "love extravagantly". How do you read this and what does it mean to you?

Other questions based on the message: