

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:3
Topic: Motives. Love.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 51
Series: 1 of 4

Focal Point Radio Ministries

March 6 & 7, 2004

Message # 04-07

Pastor Mike



part 1

Prompted by Love

Don't Have Breakfast Without It

1. Ask _____ (12:31 – 13:3)

2. Think _____ (_____) (12:31 – 13:1a)

3. Remember _____ (13:1b-3)

1 Cor. 12:31 – 13:3

12³¹ But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

13¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

² 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 have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. Compare the variety of gifts people have given you and the variety of motives that prompted them. Illustrate the difference in your reaction by recounting a small gift you received with lots of love behind it, and a large gift that came with no real concern, care, or commitment. What was the difference in the effect of those two gifts?
2. Describe a situation when your motives (good, bad or indifferent) became obvious to you. Has there ever been a situation when your motives surprised you?

Usually, our motives are hard to pin down. It takes time, brainpower, honesty and God's help. Understanding the importance of our motives, how will you go about checking your motives on a regular basis?

3. How does the Bible's definition of love differ from the world's?

Read **1 John 4:9-11**. If the standard for us is to be God's love, then it is not hard to recognize that an accurate understanding and regular contemplation of God's love is essential. But unfortunately, as D. A. Carson put it, "*The love of God has been sanitized, democratized, and above all sentimentalized.*" What will you do to better understand the biblical standard of love and keep it in the front of your mind this week?

4. Write out a prayer that reflects your commitment to rethink and refuel your motives with the kind of love found in the Bible.

Read through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Num. 18-19 & Pr. 22

Monday

Num. 20-21 & Pr. 23

Tuesday

Num. 22-23 & Pr. 24

Wednesday

Num. 24-25 & Pr. 25

Thursday

Num. 26-27 & Pr. 26

Friday

Num. 28-29 & Pr. 27

Saturday

Num. 30-31 & Pr. 28

Here are some resources which may help you understand and implement the truths presented in this week's sermon.

- Adams, Jay. **The Biblical View of Self-Esteem, Self-Love & Self-Image**. Harvest House, 1986.
- Allender, Dan and Tremper Longman. **Bold Love**. Reprint. NavPress, 1993.
- Carson, D. A. **Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God**. Dimension Books, 2000.
- _____. **Love in Hard Places**. Crossway Books, 2002.
- Chapell, Bryan. **The Promises of Grace: Living in the Grip of God's Love**. Baker Books, 2001.
- Lamb, Richard. **The Pursuit of God in the Company of Friends**. InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Lewis, C. S. **The Four Loves**. Harvest Books, 1971.
- Ortlund, Raymond C. **Whoredom: God's Unfaithful Wife in Biblical Theology**. InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Reed, Gerard. **C. S. Lewis Explores Vice and Virtue**. Beacon Hill Press, 2001.
- Swindoll, Charles. **Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living**. Reprint. Word, 2002.