



Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	26.09.21		Love Trumps	
Start	Share with the group a memory which never fails to make you laugh.			
Discuss	 Why is laughter so infectious? What do laughter and love have in common? 			
Read	<u>1 Corinthians 13:4-13</u>	Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks	
P Explore	 Why do you think Paul designates a hierarchy in this passage, culminating in <i>faith, hope and love</i>? What makes these so important to being a disciple of Jesus? Consider the <u>10 commandments</u> - how are these summarised in Matthew 23:37-9? How far do you view this as an oversimplification which allows for sinful living? Why is it that so many people see being a Christian as following a set of 'Do Nots' when Jesus' teaching is about what we <i>Do</i>? Genesis 1:27 states that God created us in his image, and as God is love, this should be how we are hardwired to behaveso why don't we always act out of love? vs. 9-12: When you were younger, what ideas did you have about yourself as an adult? How do these compare to reality? vs. 12: What do you imagine a completed human to look / be like? What aspects of our present forms will we lose or gain? What will our main character or feature be? vs. 13: why do we need faith, hope and love for our present circumstances and lives? How do you think these work to prepare us for our future, eternal, completed selves? Our ultimate destiny is LOVE because God is love. How do you reconcile this truth with stories of God's judgement (Noah's ark / Sodom and Gomorrah / Revelation 20:11-15)? 			
Go further	 Read John 13: 34-35. This new commandment is given during the last supper; Jesus has just washed his disciples' feet and instructed them to follow his example of service. Why were some of the disciples shocked by this action? 			

	 What examples can you think of where Jesus showed outrageous, selfless love? In what practical ways can we follow his example as a church? As a small group? As individuals?
Reflect	 Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? What is God putting on <i>your</i> heart?
Do	 Between this meeting and your next, commit to acts of love. Remember that by these, everyone will know that we are Jesus' disciples. Share your intended ideas with each other and check in for accountability! If you're stuck for ideas, check out the <u>Random Acts of Kindness site</u>
Pray	God of Love, I worship you. You have shown your love to me through Thank you. Your love means that I can Guide me to opportunities where I can show your love this week. Amen You may wish to take some time to intercede over situations where you are aware that a double portion of God's love is needed right now.
My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: <u>ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups</u> Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! <u>SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk</u>