

# Thrive - Guide

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## Thrive / Part 4 What is love?

### Reading:

*13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

*4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things....*

*11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.*

**- 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 11**

### Getting Started

1. In your own words, what is love?

### Read the above verses

1. What does the bible say love is?
2. If we functionally live out what we truly believe, do you really believe the bible's definition of love? Do you functionally live out love?

### Going Deeper

This week Brad spoke primarily to single people. He spoke about the addiction of relationships, and how men and women become addicted to the emotional highs and lows of relationships.

- If our practices shape our beliefs, what are you putting into your brain regarding love? Are you listening to songs that glorify the emotion of relationships? Are you reading books that glorify the emotion of relationships? Are you watching TV/Movies that glorify the emotion of relationships?
  - Do you even know the words of the songs, plots of the movies, and words of the books are selling you a cheap, worldly version of love?
- “Desire” and “Connection” are not love; however, that is what we are being told. You can have desire and connection with someone you’re not supposed to.

Single people, what are you looking for in dating? What characteristics are you attracted to/seeking out?

- Does it align with what 1 Corinthians 13 says is true love?
- If not, what does that say about you? Answer: That you do not truly believe God’s design is what is best for you. You do not believe God.

Married people, what were you seeking when you were still dating? Be honest, talk about the problems or wounds unbiblical relationships caused in your life.

- How have you and your spouse had to deal with the baggage brought in to the marriage from unbiblical dating?
- What baggage/wounds are you still dealing with?

How can you identify kindness in someone you’re dating? Brad gave the example of serving in the local church. What are others?

- What are pragmatic examples of the other characteristics 1 Corinthians 13 tells us to look for?

If someone is willing to take a relationship sexual prior to marriage, what does that truly say about them? Answer: “I follow MY desires; not what is God’s, and not what is yours.”

- At some point in your meeting, separate men and women. Ask if anyone needs to confess sexual sin to God and receive prayer from others. Healing begins when we acknowledge there is a problem.

1 Corinthians 13:7 tells us that love trusts. Do you trust? Are there wounds from your past that prevent you from trusting? If so, are you taking the time you need to heal before jumping in to another relationship? As Brad said, it is selfish to do your healing on another's time - meaning, it is not fair to the person you are in a relationship with.

- Marrieds, do you trust your spouse? Are there wounds that need to be healed?

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.”

- What childish ways do you need to give up?
- What childish speaking do you need to give up?
- What childish thoughts do you need to give up?

Brad said, “The world does not get to tell us (believers) what love is.” What does that mean?

If you haven't done so already, split up the men and women in your group.

- Ask if there is anything that needs to be dragged before the light of God (confession). Darkness cannot live in the light.
- Pray for each other; lay hands on and pray when needed.