



Mid-Week Checkpoint Week of June 6, 2021

Sometimes we get caught up in doing good things and we forget to love the people around us!

- For example, we may be intent on buying perfect Christmas gifts and fail to truly love the people receiving the gifts. In the busyness of Christmas, we could forget that Christmas is ultimately about loving God and our neighbors. At one time or another, we have all been guilty of failing to put love first. What we *are* and the things we *do* should come from a heart of love.

In 1 Corinthians 13:1, the apostle Paul said, "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."

- Describe a time an unloving person has reminded you of a "noisy gong" or a "clanging cymbal." What was the outcome of that experience?
- When have you been a "noisy gong" or a "clanging cymbal?"

Read 1 Corinthians 13:2-3 again.

- How do faith and love complement each other?
- How is it possible to give away possessions without love?

Many scriptures are complementary. Read two scriptures written by Paul: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and Galatians 5:22-23.

- How do these scriptures compare/contrast?
- Is love non-negotiable for Christians? Why or why not?
- What are some steps we can take to grow the fruit of the Spirit in our lives?
- What do you think Paul meant when he said love "rejoices in the truth?"

Sometimes we focus on things that ultimately don't matter. Look at 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 again.

- How do you discern what matters most in your life?
- What are some next steps you might take to grow closer to God?
- Today, much of life is a mystery to us. We "know only in part" (v. 9) and "see in a mirror, dimly" (v. 12). Is this reassuring or does it make you uncomfortable? Why? Describe some ways we can live into what we don't yet know.

Remember that "faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love" (v. 13). Go about your day in peace, knowing you are God's beloved!

Questions for All Ages –

Do you agree with Paul that love is the most important thing? How can you share God's love with others this week?

Prayer – Holy One, we don't want to be noisy gongs or clanging cymbals! Teach us to be patient, kind, and humble. Show us how to put others before ourselves. Fill us with hope as we love one another. Amen.