

Week of July 20, 2025 - Love II

Small Group Lesson 29

Connect

Imagine someone has prepared a wonderful meal with love. If guests are late, the cook would feel upset and the enjoyment would only be "partial." But if all the guests arrive, the meal would be enjoyed “perfectly” by them all.

What is the relationship with the “partial” and “perfect” feelings for the cook and the guests at the dinner party? How would things improve if the late guests call ahead to say they are still coming, but will be late. (What does that instill?)

Verses - 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. 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 put aside childish things. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known. 13 Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love — but the greatest of these is love.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. In v.8, Paul states that prophecy, tongues, and knowledge will "cease" or "come to an end." What does this tell us about the nature of these gifts?

2. Paul says, "For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away" (vv.9-10). What does he mean by "knowing in part" or "prophesying in part"? What is the perfect that will come to mean?

3. v.12 describes our current understanding as seeing "only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face." What does this vivid image suggest about the clarity of understanding we will have in the future? Why is that?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi uses the Indian parable of the blind men and the elephant to illustrate how we "know in part" (v.9). How does this story help us understand why Christians can disagree on non-essential biblical interpretations and what is his advice for how we should respond to these differences?

Discuss 2:
What would be your *true* love?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.