

## Sermon Outline

### **Together in Christ, Part 7: “A Community Excelling in Love”**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

**Mark Mitchell, June 14, 2015**

**Main Idea:** What does it look like to be a community shaped by the gospel and in ongoing fellowship with our triune God? Today’s sermon reminds us that for all of the great things that can and should powerfully mark a community of believers, there is one thing that far surpasses them all—love.

#### **Sermon Outline:**

1. The Necessity of Love (13:1-3)
  - a. Gifted speech (v1)
  - b. Gifted insight (v2)
  - c. Sacrificial actions (v3)
2. The Character of Love (13:4-7)

*“Love is **patient** and **kind**; love does not **envy** or **boast**; it is not **arrogant** or **rude**. It does not **insist on its own way**; it is not **irritable** or **resentful**; it **does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth**.<sup>7</sup> Love **bears** all things, **believes** all things, **hopes** all things, **endures** all things.”*
3. The Permanence of Love (v8-13)

#### **Conclusion:**

*Love is supreme because it is essential in the eyes of God.*

*Love is supreme because its character reflects the character of God.*

*Love is supreme because it continues into eternity with God.*

**Key Quote:** “[God’s love] is a love for the utterly unworthy, a love which proceeds from a God who is love. It is a love lavished on others without a thought of whether they are worthy to receive it or not. It proceeds rather from the nature of the lover, than from any merit in the beloved.’ This is the love which, according to Jesus, has to characterize and control the Christian community, if it is in any sense to be recognized as Christian and if he is to be recognized as God’s Son and the world’s Savior.” -Leon Morris

#### **Fellowship Starters:**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 together.
2. Share what sticks out to you in the passage.
3. Review the outline above. As you listened to Mark’s message and how he sought to unpack each of these traits of love, where were you encouraged at the grace of God in your life? Where are you convicted at your lack of love?
4. What a reminder that our sufficiency before God is only in Christ our Savior, who not only perfectly loves, but is love itself.
5. Close in prayer asking God to be glorified in the church as we seek obedience to love one another the way God loves us.

 **Covenant Life Church**

Sermon audio and outlines: [www.covlife.org/resources](http://www.covlife.org/resources)