



1 Cor 13 is a well-known chapter. It gets used frequently at weddings – even for people who aren't "church goers" (*and it does apply at weddings*). It gets used frequently in talking about husband-wife and family dynamics (*and it does apply there as well.*)

1. But let's consider the original context of this chapter:
 - A. What problems between brethren in the church at Corinth has Paul already addressed through the first 12 chapters of this book?
 - B. What problem between them and among them had he been addressing in chapter 12?
 - C. How did he end chapter 12?
 - D. So what was Paul's specific focus *to them* in writing this chapter?
2. So, while the teachings about love in this chapter DO apply to weddings and family dynamics and other settings, *what would be the exact parallel application for us today?*
3. In verses 1-3 Paul gives some specific examples; *what is the point he is trying to make obvious?*
4. Verses 4-7 give some characteristics of love (*agapē*). We could spend several class periods just digging in to these 4 verses, but let's consider a few of the things listed. (For this question it may help you to compare words from the NKJV, NASB, and ESV.) Please explain / describe the following characteristics **of love**:
 - a) suffers long (vs 4, NKJV)
 - b) is not jealous (vs 4, NASB)
 - c) does not parade itself (vs 4, NKJV)
 - d) does not seek its own (vs 5, NASB)
 - e) thinks no evil (vs 5, NKJV) / does not take into account a wrong suffered (NASB)
 - f) bears all things (vs 7)
 - g) believes all things (vs 7)
 - h) hopes all things (vs 7)
 - i) endures all things (vs 7)

5. In verses 8-13, Paul uses different illustrations to help make his point more clear. What IS his point of these verses? (That is, what is he telling us about love, as compared to the other things talked about in this section?)

6. Consider verse 13, and how important the 3 things listed are today.
 - a) Which one of these 3 will NOT end after this life is over?
 - b) In light of that, what does vs 12 mean to you?

7. So, if we combine his point of verses 8-13 (question 5) with the point of verses 1-3 (question 3), what does this tell us about our *religious actions* today?