

## Small Group/Sermon Notes based on IF Part 8

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **IF: Conditional Promises of God.**
- This week: Let's dig deeper into loving one another.
  - **John 13:34-35.** Love one another. That should keep us busy.
- Read **1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13.**
- Discuss First Point: God calls each of us to be part of a loving family.
  - To love one another we have to be in relationship with one another.
    - Check out **1 John 1:5-7.**
      - What is the evidence that we are walking in the light? Is that surprising?
  - So, we need to love each other and hang with each other. Are there ditches with this? Let's look at: **1 Corinthians 5:9-13.**
    - Is that love????? Wow. What happened to "love never fails?" Does this make sense?
  - Discuss errors relating to over emphasizing Ch 13 or Ch 5. What would the ditches look like?
    - First thing, some have a Ch 13 personality, some a Ch 5 personality.
    - It isn't "truth or love," it is both: **Ephesians 4:15.**
    - AND there is an expectation of personal growth for the believer.
      - Compare love that hampers personal growth vs love that promotes personal growth.
  - So, God calls each of us to be part of a loving family. Not a codependent enabling family, but not an abusive shame/performance based family either.
    - What if we could find the sweet spot? That is something worth doing.
- Discuss Second Point: Effective service to God requires loving others more than you love your spiritual gifts or your role in the church. Reread **1 Corinthians 13:1-3.**
  - Do you want to be good at serving God? I hope so.
  - What you do (your role) is less important than the heart behind it!
    - Could giving all you possess to the poor really gain you nothing? Just ask Ananias and Sapphira! (Acts 5:1-11)
  - Discuss good motives and bad motives people may have relating to serving as: a worship leader, preacher, prophet, etc.
    - What
  - Context of 1 Cor 13 is spiritual gifts like tongues and interpretation and prophecy.
    - If a prophetic word is given out of love and inspired by God it is good.
    - If it is an attention seeking device or a fleshy opportunity to vent, it is bad.
  - The key is to see the need and love people enough to help out as you are able with the tools God has given you.
  - Jesus describes how to be great: **Matthew 20:25-28.**
    - Why did Jesus come to serve? Because he loved us. He is our example in this.
  - We are called to love each other. That is an important spiritual level to attain to.
    - That means being part of the family.
    - It means loving people more than your role or gift set.
    - How do we get there?
      - It takes having God's heart. That means having the Holy Spirit. Good news!  
**Luke 11:11-13.**
      - Ask and receive!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!