

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



FIGHTING FAIR
CHAD BRUEGMAN
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If you would like to watch the message, visit rpc.me/messages.

READ

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

QUESTIONS

- The Greek word for love in this scripture is called *agape*. After reading this scripture, how do you define agape love? (An unconditional, sacrificial love that seeks the interests of others above self. Jesus Christ showed his love (agape), by sacrificing Himself on the cross for you and me to have eternal life.)
- How does culture describe love? How does this contrast with how God defines love?
- Why do you think God defined love for us in scripture? (God is love. All qualities of love are qualities of God. Who God is informs everything we do as believers. He gives us a new understanding of what it means to love ourselves and others. God is a God of relationships and his desire for us is to not only be in relationships but to be in healthy relationships.)
- How does Paul describe the character of love in these verses? (Love is patient, kind, generous, and never gives up. It always protects, sacrifices, and honors the other.)
- How would you describe what love “is not” according to these verses? (Love is not self-seeking, short-tempered, arrogant, envious or offensive. It does not boast or keep score of wrongdoings.)

- Which of the characteristics of love is most difficult for you and why? How can you work to change that?
- Share a time when someone loved you well. What was that like?
- Would you describe love as a feeling or action? Explain.
- How does this reading about what love is or is not connect with your current experiences or with what God has been teaching you?

READ

James 1:2-4

QUESTIONS

- Chad said, “Chemistry can get you to alter but character keeps you there.” Do you agree and why?
- According to James, what will each person go through? ([Trails of many kinds](#)) By default your relationships will also go through trials and hardship. What do these trials and hardships produce in a relationship? ([Perseverance](#)).
- Why do we need to build perseverance? ([Persevering through hard times produces maturity. It is a testing of our faith. We are not to sidestep the tough times but rather lean in and let God work and build perseverance within us so that we may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. These trails are necessary so that you can be all He designed you to be.](#))
- What happens when you let God into your conflicts? ([Perseverance will give your relationship a depth and maturity that it would not have otherwise.](#))
- What external influences cause conflict in relationships? ([Job or job loss, sickness, kids, pets, a midlife crisis, etc.](#))
- What is a better question you can ask God than why am I going through all of this? ([What are you up to God? What do you want to show me?](#))
- What do you find challenging in this passage?
- What point in this group discussion was most impactful for you?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: How can the group pray for you now and in the days ahead?

LEADERS: Palm Sunday Baptism will be on Thursday, March 21 and Sunday, March 24. Encourage people to sign up (rpc.me/baptism or westend.me/baptism) and plan to come and support them. Baptism is a great next step of obedience for someone to take to grow their relationship with Christ. You don't have to be a member of RPC|WE to be baptized.

