

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of April 26, 2015

1 Corinthians 13:3-7

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Common English Bible (CEB)

³ *If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

⁴ *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

Connection Questions:

1. What characteristics do you most value in a friend? Describe a friend of yours that demonstrates a number of these values.

2. How does a circumstantial friend differ from a lifelong friend? How are they similar?

3. What situations cause friendships to drift? To break apart? To solidify?

4. Are there some friends with whom it is easier to share your faith? Why do you think so?

5. As you survey your current relational world, what pruning do you believe needs to occur? Does anything keep you from working through that process?

6. Describe a friendship that has brought you closer to Christ.

7. In John 15:13-17, Christ told his disciples "I no longer call you servants . . . but I have called you friends." Read the entire passage in your Bible. Why do you think Jesus said this?