



## “Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

©Naomi's Table. All Rights Reserved.

### Lesson 25: Not That Kind of Love

#### 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Read Ephesians 5:1-2. How are we to imitate God? How are we to walk? Why should we want to walk in this manner?

Read Philippians 2:5-11. Look at the characteristics of Christ we are given here. Paul tells us to have the same mind among ourselves as Christ had in coming to save us. What was due to Christ? Did He demand what was due to Him? What is due to you? Truly, what would justice be in your life? Do you demand treatment that is far above what you deserve? Christ humbled Himself and was obedient to death on a cross—a death He didn't deserve, but that you and I did. In what areas of your life are you struggling to humble yourself (and that NOT to the point of death)? Where do you struggle to obey God? Why do you resist obeying Him in that?

Read John 14:15-17. What demonstrates our love for Christ? What did Christ give to us? Why can't the world receive this?

Read Matthew 7:21-23. Who is it that will enter the kingdom of heaven? How does this go along with John 14:15-17? What sobering warning do we see here in Matthew, as well? Why must we be careful to seek God and to seek to do what He truly does command us? (Note: I'm not saying that works save us, however the fruit of our salvation is evident in our lives, and there will be works that will accompany a changed life that will affirm your calling and election. Reading through 1 John and examining yourself in light of those evidences is a great place to start.)

Since Jesus *is* God, what commandments have we been given that we must obey to demonstrate that we love Christ? (Ya might start with the “Big Ten” but you can also just page through any of the Gospels and see what Jesus, Himself, commands.)

Read Ephesians 5:26-27. How did Christ love the church, His body? Look at all the actions that Christ performed on behalf of His bride. Why did He do that? Knowing that, why do you think it is important to understand how God calls us to interact with His body?

As you spend time with God today, ladies, consider how you view the church. Perhaps you have had rough experiences with people in a church in the past, and that has led to you having a wariness toward obeying God's commands regarding the body of Christ.

While humans will fail you, and humans will sin against you, that does not set aside your responsibility to still honor God in how you show love and compassion and understanding for your brothers and sisters in Christ, especially within the local body of believers you attend.

How is your love for Christ evident in your love for His bride in general? How is it evident in your love for the specific members of His bride? How are you bearing all things? Love never ends ladies. Knowing that, ask God to help you to have that love for His bride that bears all things and endures all things. Ask Him to help you to see where you may have an unnecessarily critical spirit that is causing you to sin in your attitude and behavior toward the body of Christ.

Go back through 1 Corinthians 13 today, and as you do so, ask God to show you where you may be demonstrating the opposite of love for your brothers and sisters in Christ. Address those things; confess and repent and be reconciled where it is necessary. Remember, Christ loved the church so much that He gave Himself up for her; ask God to help you to seek not just your own good, but to build up Christ's bride.