Do you remember the first time you fell in love? Looking back, we might smile, or maybe wince, at how little we understood about what we were feeling.

Or, looking forward, we might wonder how far we still have to go when we read the apostle Paul's celebration of love. What was he thinking when he described a kind of love that finds joy in the truth—while believing, hoping, and enduring all things? What kind of truth and what kind of love is greater than our knowledge, faith, and deepest hopes? (1 Corinthians 13:6b–13).

If we examine Paul's words, then maybe we will see how our own failures in loving others as Christ loved us can prompt us to try again.

**THIS WEEK’S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- In 1 Corinthians 13:6, Paul describes a love that finds joy in truth. But what is the truth? All truth? Any truth? Was Paul rejoicing in the truth about the conflict and lack of love that was dividing his Corinthian readers and ruining the reputation of their faith?

- For context, let's read again how Paul begins this scripture (1 Corinthians 13:1–7). What is the truth that has captured his heart and attention? What is the reference point for his way of thinking—that he repeats over and over in this opening section?

- Who personifies the kind of love Paul is describing? Who claimed to be the truth that puts everything else in perspective? Could that be why the New Testament refers to the word of truth as the good news of who Jesus is, what He has done for us, who we are in Him, and what His Spirit can help us do (Ephesians 1:13)? Can you think of a greater irony than what was happening when Pilate asked, “What is truth?” (John 18:38).

- Can you see why Paul sees the kind of love he has found in Christ as a more helpful present focus and future hope than the never-ending pursuit of knowledge?

**CHALLENGE**

Ask the Lord to help you take the time to read this chapter at least once a day with the awareness that this “better way” is experienced through a reliance on His Spirit rather than on our own efforts.

**COMMIT TO MEMORY**

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:4–7).

**PRAYER**

Father, thank You for being so patient, so kind, and so ready to forgive and restore us. As You help us to see how far short we have fallen, please help us to fall in love again—with You and one another—as You have loved us. Amen.