

- 1) Define biblical (*agapē*) love:
  
- 2) Is there a person in your life who personifies the biblical definition of “love” and why?
  
- 3) Who was 1 Corinthians 13 written to?
  
- 4) What does that mean?
  
- 5) As a church, what would Paul tell us if we “got it right” doctrinally but forgot to love?
  
- 6) What does that mean for us today (thinking practically)?
  
- 7) 1 Corinthians 13 has three major chapter divisions; what are they?
  - a) The preeminence of love:
  
  - b) The prerogatives of love:
  
  - c) The permanence of love:
  
- 8) In verse 7 does Paul really mean real love “believes all things”? Should I just be gullible?
  
- 9) Would you say your life is characterized by *agapē* love?
  
- 10) What are the first two words of 1 Corinthians 14:1?
  
- 11) How do you plan to do that this week?

**Monday (v. 1-4)** – Notice how Paul starts out this letter to the Colossians: by pointing their thinking toward Christ. “*We give thanks* to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus.” This chapter of Colossians is all about the preeminence of Christ, the central position of Christ, the excellence of Christ. “He is before all things and in Him all things consist” (v. 17). Paul starts out this letter with several reminders, the first is salvation. Salvation is only through Christ and it is all of God; therefore, when we heard of your faith, “We give thanks!”

**Tuesday (v. 5-8)** – Epaphras was one of Paul’s faithful traveling companions (Philem. 1:23) and he was from Colosse (Col. 4:12). Paul calls Epaphras “a faithful minister of Christ” and “our dear fellow servant” (“fellow servant” is a compound word and could be translated “fellow-slave”). Epaphras had given his life to be used of God and he became God’s instrument to bring the good news of the gospel to Colosse; he was faithful and his life was bearing fruit for eternity because Jesus Christ had first place in his life. As you examine your life this week, ask yourself these questions: Does Christ have first place in my life? Could I call myself a slave to Christ?

**Wednesday (v. 9-12)** – Paul mentions his prayers a lot in the first half of this chapter. He says he was praying that the Colossian believers would live a fruitful life “fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work.” Notice the characteristics of this type of life: knowing God’s will (even being filled with it), all wisdom, spiritual understanding, increasing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened according to His power, patience, and joy. Paul prays for a work that only God can do, but he also prays that they would “walk worthy.” This is one of the awesome mysteries of sanctification. Spiritual growth only comes from Christ, yet He only works in your life when *you* are obedient to His Word.

**Thursday (v. 13,14)** – Have you by faith placed your trust in Christ for eternal salvation? If so, Jesus Christ has delivered you from the very “power of darkness.” Think about the implications of that statement; first the obvious is that “darkness” (sin, the devil, etc.) has no power over you (“power”: Greek *exousia*, meaning “force” but also “jurisdiction” or “authority”). Sin has no authority in your life, sin has no dominion; it cannot rule you. Sin has no hold on you, no legitimate claim to you. This raises a question: Why do you still sin? The sobering answer is because you choose to. Ouch! Ye, Christians do choose to sin; but praise God for verse 14! In Christ there is redemption and forgiveness for sins.

**Friday (v. 15-17)** – “Preeminence” is a noun which means “to excel, to stand out, to be superior or notable above all others.” The NASB translates Colossians 1:18b, “So that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.” According to these verses, Christ is first, “firstborn over *all* creation,” *all* things were created by Him, “*all things* were created through Him and for Him.” The whole of redemptive history has been, and is, pointing to Jesus Christ. Why? So that He may have the preeminence (be first). What place does Jesus Christ have in your life? Think about your life today; how often do you put Christ first? How often do you consider that you were created by Him and for Him? God wants Christ to be first in your life.

**Saturday (v. 18-20)** – Verse 18 is the key verse to the Book of Colossians; you could say it is the key verse for understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ. I mean, why would a loving God send His beloved Son to die for vile and wicked men? because He had to? because we needed it? because He desired a relationship with us? Ultimately, it was so that He could be greatly glorified—so that Christ would have the preeminence. These verses also tell of the preeminence of Christ in the Church: “He is the head.” As we go forward as a church trying to make an impact on our community, let us never forget the truth that everything we do should be done to bring the maximum glory and honor to our wonderful head, Jesus Christ.