# How do you love? 1. In the family

## 1 Corinthians 13 & Ephesians 5:22-6:4

# What’s it like in your home?

# Heaven on earth in the church

## 1 Corinthians written to a church in conflict about the use of their use of spiritual gifts

### If you want to be effective in building up the church love is the key

#### But not any kind of love

##### Agapé love – the self-sacrificing love, that Paul describes in detail

## Use your gifts to build up the Church of God in Christ with this love as your motivational force

# Heaven on earth in the home

### Is built on the same ‘agapé’ love:

## Wives show love by submission and respect

## Husbands show love by actions, words and sacrifice

## Children show this love by obedience and honour

## Parents show this love by allowing them to grow

#### Don’t exasperate, train and teach

### Training is done when the pressure is off, when the outcome doesn’t matter

# How do you love in the home?

## It’s all about the atmosphere

### You set that every day you get out of bed, with the first word you say, with the first expression on your face in the morning!

# God wants you to have a great family life

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# 1 Corinthians 13

## What kind of love is this?

### Paul describes agapé-love by its outcomes

#### For each one give an example from someone in church

### How does the love-approach help the use of gifts?

### Can you show the descriptors of love without loving?

#### Explain your answer with examples

#### What happens to the attitude of the person who does this?

# Ephesians 5 & 6

## This is part of a larger section on being imitators of God (5:1) based on being forgiven in Christ (4:31)

### We are urged to ‘live a life of agapé-love’ (5:2) and submit to one-another out of reverence for Christ (5:21)

## Discuss ‘submission’ for wives

### Why would Paul say this in the light of a gospel that says ‘there is neither male nor female in Christ’ (Gal 3:28)

### How does it differ from subservience?

### How is this done practically?

### How does this give freedom and growth to wives?

### What does it imply for the husband?

### Can men and women ‘swap roles’ in a Christian marriage?

## Discuss ‘love and sacrifice’ for husbands

#### This was a radical idea from Paul’s pen

### To what extent can a man say that his work and income are his sacrifice for his wife/family?

#### Is it enough for a Christian marriage?

### How does a man get the attitude right so that the outcome of his sacrifice is to set her apart for himself?

### Wives: If a man were willing to lay down his life for you how difficult would it be for you submit to him?

### What is respect? How can it be shown in the context of marriage?

## Discuss ‘obedience’ for children

### Can children obey without loving?

### How does love change the decision to obey?

### Why does Paul call the commandment the first commandment with a promise?

## Discuss Fathers exasperating children

### Tell your stories of your parents annoying you then say what you think now

### Does this command mean parents should challenge their children?

### How can parents be helped to rein their exasperating in?

### How far do you agree that ‘training’ changes the parameters of an interaction?

#### How does this help the parent-child bond?