



WEEK 28 | THE BETTER WAY | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

1 Corinthians 12:31 ...desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.

_____ is better than _____

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, ⁵ is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. ⁶ Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 12:8-13 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known. ¹³ Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love.

NOTES: _____

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? Did you gain new insights?
2. "Words matter because words have meaning." How have you seen the meaning of important biblical words (like "love," "truth," or "tolerance") change in our culture? What can believers do to preserve and communicate God's definitions rather than the world's redefinitions?
3. Paul and the Corinthians struggled with pride and division — much like a culture that embraces relativism today. In what ways can relativism (the idea that truth and morality are determined by individuals or groups) subtly influence the way we interpret Scripture or make moral choices? How can we keep biblical authority central in our beliefs and relationships?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–3. Paul says that even the most impressive gifts — tongues, prophecy, faith, or generosity — are worthless without love. What might it look like for someone today to serve faithfully or use their gifts but still "lack love"? How can we guard against doing "good things" with the wrong heart?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. Paul gives specific traits of godly, agape love. Which of these descriptions (patient, kind, not irritable, not self-seeking, etc.) challenges you most right now? How can God's Spirit help you grow in that area?
6. The Pastor said, "Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth." How can Christians balance truth and love in real conversations — especially when standing for truth might hurt someone's feelings or strain a relationship? In what ways did Jesus model this balance perfectly?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8–13. Paul reminds us that "faith, hope, and love remain — but the greatest of these is love." Why do you think love is the greatest? How does keeping love at the center change the way we view ministry, church disagreements, or personal growth?