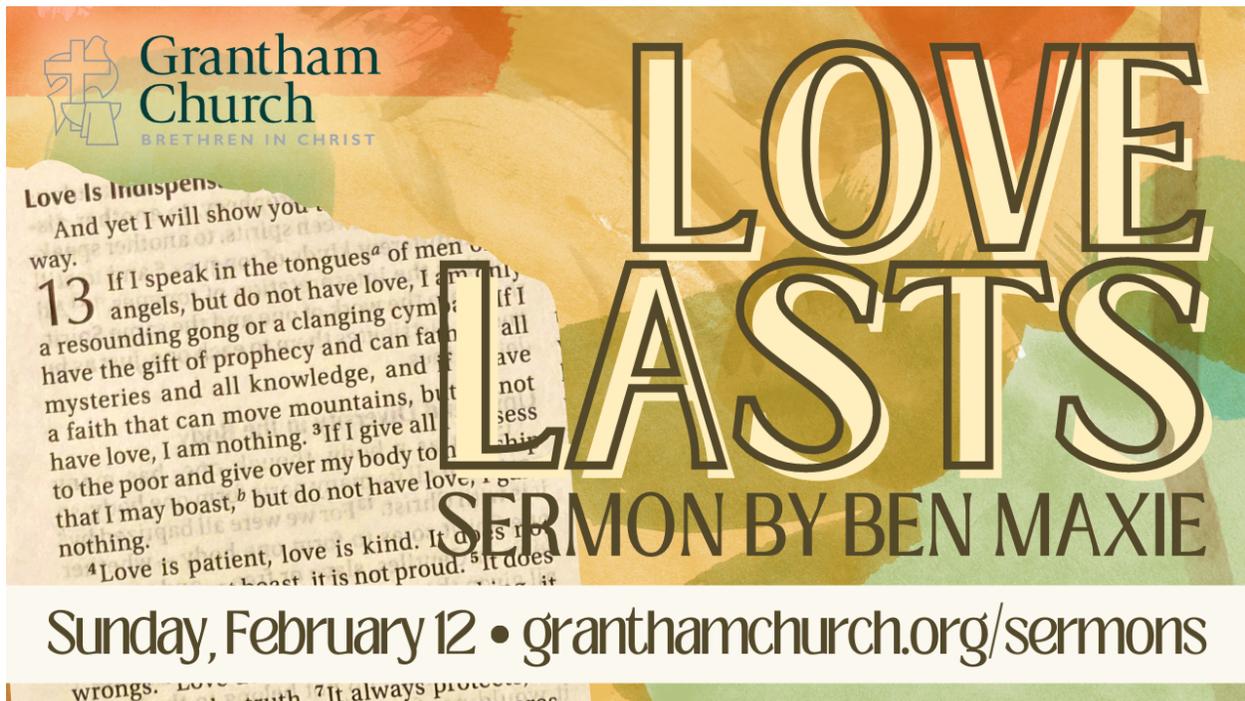


Love Lasts
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, February 12th 2023



Guest Speaker: Ben Maxie

Sermon Title: Love Lasts

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:7, 13:4-13; 2 Peter 3:9

Sermon Focus: The Apostle Paul wrote what is known as “the love chapter” in his letter to the saints at Corinth. First Corinthians 13 was written to a congregation that was divided over many things. So, Paul reminds them that love is greater than being right, better than being knowledgeable, and far more impressive than their spiritual giftings. In today’s message, guest speaker Ben Maxie (teaching pastor at Living Water Community Church in Harrisburg) encourages us to pursue loving others like Jesus.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 together. You may have heard the “love chapter” read at weddings, which is fine. But this was written to a church deeply divided over many things. How does that impact the way we read it? What part of this chapter speaks to you the most about a church divided?
2. Pastor Ben Maxie shared an experience he had at the checkout counter at a local store. There was a new cashier that wasn’t sure about what to do when there was a problem with the register. A manager came over and was impatient, rude, and demeaning to the new employee. And he did it in front of others. How does this make you feel? Have you ever witnessed something like this? Have you ever been on the receiving end of this behavior?
3. What are some other examples that you frequently see in our society of people being impatient, rude, angry, mean, etc.? What can disciples do to counter the toxic behavior that seems to be increasing in American culture? Share some real-life examples of what can be done to deescalate the ugliness in our world.
4. While you would hope that churches wouldn’t reflect the ugliness of culture, we sometimes do. That’s because we are all still in process, and, to be honest, some folks in the church aren’t being intentional in growing into love. What would be a helpful way to challenge those disciples who are being unloving? Give some examples of how this happens, as well as how we can address it.
5. Pastor Ben encouraged us to examine ourselves according to 1 Corinthians 13. Since this is the way God wants us to reflect his own heart, where do we notice areas in our life that we need to align with God’s desires. For example, are there people or certain situations that we need to be more patient? Have we been unkind to someone and need to make amends? Have we been envious of someone? Have we put ourselves before someone else? Look at 1 Corinthians 13 and ask the Spirit to speak to your heart about where you need to grow.
6. After taking some time to confess where you have fallen short of God’s will for your life, end your group session in prayer for each other. Ask the Spirit to help you and the people in your small group to live more fully into the love described in 1 Corinthians 13. Ask the Lord to help you live out of his love for you.