

## Letter to the Loyal Week 2

This week's extra work may seem a bit simplistic. We want to invite you to reflect on the word "love." We often hear how Greek has so many words for love and that we lump it all together as one thing. You have heard it, one word describes our feeling towards tacos and the people closest to us. One word equals what we feel towards one another and the determined posture that we have towards the world. They are not the same thing.

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Week Two: Philippians 1:1-6

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

(Philippians 1:1-6, NRSV)

### Reflection

On Sunday we talked through four parts of love that come from Philippians 1:6-11. We said that the type of love that Paul describes is:

- Brilliant love
- Overflowing love
- Discerning love
- Productive love

Go ahead and look in the text at where you see this to be true. Or do you have better words for what Paul is describing?

Spend a few minutes thinking through what you know of the Bible. Are there times where you see these four facets of love in the narratives we read?

As we head towards Ash Wednesday and towards Easter, how do you see these facets in what we observe, celebrate, and reflect on?

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-When we talk of love, most of us think of the emotion. Love is not less than the emotion we feel. We do feel love. It is wonderful. At the same time, love is more than this emotion. It is an inward posture that we have the ability to strategically “aim” towards people and situations. We also have a command from Jesus about how we are to use this “aim.”

Go ahead and read through Matthew 22:34-40.

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- By far the most famous chapter on love in the Bible is 1 Corinthians 13. We hear it at weddings, and that is such a perfect environment for it. It is perfect because it is a space where people are committing to have a posture towards one another.

Spend a few minutes reading through this chapter again.

Pay attention to how intentional each descriptor is.

Looking at our four facets from Philippians 1 again, how do you see these interact and play out in 1 Corinthians 13.

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We would love to know what you are thinking about all of this. Send us an email or a text. Let's keep journeying together.

One Church staff