



READ

1 John 4:7-21 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

REACT

The goal of any passage of scripture or sermon is not to elicit mere listening, but true transformation. So as you read the above passages and listen to the sermon, the first question each of us should always be asking is "what areas of my life need to change?"

To be clear, this is not about shame or guilt for who we have been or who we are; but about a hope for the future that we are growing into an even better version of ourselves.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER AND SHARE

1. What has been our understanding of the concept of 'others' or 'neighbour' in scripture?
2. Have we placed limitations on the scope of 'others' which in any way could exclude people?
3. What has been our understanding of the concept of 'love' in scripture?
4. What was your understanding of 1 Corinthians 13 when you first heard or read it?
5. Have you placed limitations on the scope of 'love' as it's discussed in 1 Corinthians or in the sermon, and if so explain why you think that might be?
6. In practical terms how can we be better at loving others?

PRAY

The following prayer is often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi but in fact only emerged in the last century and the true author is unknown. The words are a helpful prayer of meditation as we seek to be more like Jesus in the love we offer towards others. After you have read it through as a text, it is worth reading it a second time in an attitude of prayer and commitment.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.*

*O Master, let me not seek as much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.*

This resource was provided as an accompaniment to a sermon given by Peter Lublink of BethanyKids. To learn more about the work of BethanyKids visit BethanyKids.org.