

WHAT IS LOVE? PART 2

By understanding the historical context of 1 Corinthians 13 - who wrote it, who they wrote it to, and the world they lived in - we can unpack deeper meanings of the text. Paul was a Jew not born in Jerusalem, who belonged to the Pharisees group. They believed that rigidly following the law would encourage God to send the Messiah. Any small sin or breaking of a rule would delay the Messiah's coming.

He wrote to Corinth, a city over a thousand miles away from Jerusalem, populated by people who probably hadn't chosen to live there and who didn't have a sense of community. Paul had lived with them for 18 months, and knew their struggles and challenges.

By emphasising the importance of love above the law, Paul radically challenged people's understanding of what it was to love others, and be loved by God.



01 — What is love?

Did anything surprise you in learning about the history of Paul and the city of Corinth in Sunday's preach?



02 — Law vs love

Jesus came not to abolish the law, but to complete it. What happens when 'following the rules' became more important than anything else? Are there any other examples of this in the Bible?



03 — Diving into a chiasm

1 Corinthians is written as a 'chiasm': the first half mirrors the second half, with chapter 13 in the centre, emphasising its importance. How can this help us think about what needs to be central in our lives?



04 — Practising what (Emily) preaches

What does keeping love at the centre mean for you on your frontlines?

