

Bob also mentioned that these questions are best answered by someone close to us! Why is it that we sometimes (maybe more than sometimes) have a different view of us than others have of us?

Knowing this, how can we not let our blindspots limit our growth and attempts at loving others?

So, in the next couple of days, how about taking the challenge and asking someone close to you to answer these questions using the same evaluation scale! Share with your group who you can ask this week. (A little accountability never hurts :)

Compare how their answers match with your answers.

What did you learn about yourself from this exercise?

## WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last Sunday's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out? Who can you ask for some encouragement and accountability to follow through with your intention?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our next small group meeting?

# The Key For Lasting Impact

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, May 8th, 2016

## Three Agape "Poor Substitutes": (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

- personal \_\_\_\_\_ with God (v1)
- powerful \_\_\_\_\_ with others (v2)
- passionate \_\_\_\_\_ for God (v3)

## Four Agape "Summary Attributes":

- Agape love is not E \_\_\_\_\_  
(John 13:33-35, 1 John 4:7-8, Revelation 2:1-5)
- Agape love is not E \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
- Agape love is not E \_\_\_\_\_  
(John 15:12-13, Philippians 2:3-5)
- Agape love is not E \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 Thess. 3:10, Ephesians 4:15, Philippians 1:9-10)

## Five Agape "Current Questions": (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

(If brave enough: ask your spouse, kids, co-workers and friends)

1. Am I ...  
(v4a, "love is patient and kind")
2. Do I ...  
(v4b, love does not envy, does not boast, is not proud)
3. Am I ...  
(v5a, love is not rude or self-seeking)
4. Do I ...  
(v5b, love is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs)
5. Am I ...  
(v6-7, "love does not delight in evil, rejoices in truth, protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres)

## This Week's Discussion Guide:

**Welcome to "Week 5" of this season of our small groups at GPC!** Time flies! We are half way through this 'small group season' that began back on Sunday, April 3rd. Our last small group meeting will be the week of June 19th and then we will take the rest of June, July and August off.

### Getting Started:

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, what did you find most interesting, challenging or thought provoking as we took a fresh look at 1 Corinthians 13:1-13?

Last Sunday, Bob talked a little about 'white noise'. What are some examples of what is heard or seen but you no longer really give much attention to any more? Sadly, this can happen in our relationships! How can we prevent the people we love from becoming 'white noise' in our lives????

Last Sunday was Mother's Day. It is a day of mixed emotions for many. How was the day for you?

In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Paul emphasizes how important loving others is and encouraged the church in Corinth (and us) to not let excuses get in the way of loving others. Based on these three verses and/or other thoughts you might have, what are some reasons you might have used in the past to excuse yourself from being a bit more loving in certain situations?

### Digging Deeper:

1. The Apostle John who wrote five books of the New Testament, had a lot to say about love in action. Read the following verses taken from two of the books he wrote and note what insights about love you find.

John 13:34-35

1 John 3:14-18

1 John 4:20-21

How can these verses help you further understand what it means to put love into action?

Read Matthew 5:43-47. How does this passage expand your thinking about what love in action looks like?

2. In 1 John 4:7-12, our loving others is brought together with God's love for us. What relationship do you see between the command for us to love others and God's love for us in this passage?

Read 1 John 4:19-21. What relationship do you see between our love for others and our love for God?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 again, this time replacing the word 'love' with your own name. Now take a minute to consider how true this is of your relationship with your spouse, family, or good close friends.

4. Bob ended his message with asking five questions that were intended to dust off the words of 1 Corinthians 13 and help us relate them to our daily lives. Take a minute to think about how you would evaluate yourself on each question using the scale below.

Am I harsh? (almost never) 1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 (often)

Do I have to win? (almost never) 1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 (often)

Am I self-centered? (almost never) 1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 (often)

Do I have a short fuse? (almost never) 1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 (often)

Am I cynical? (almost never) 1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 (often)