



Part 1: Let's (Don't) Make A Deal

Most people trade love rather than give it freely.

Trading love is a transaction that requires the other person to pay.

1 John 4

⁷ "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

God created love and God defines love.

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

God shows love by giving us something we didn't earn.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us."

God's love went first, so our love should go first.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Real love is not driven by fear.

TODAY'S TRUTH
Love is a gift, not a transaction.

Group Guide

Introduction

Every good marriage requires love. But what is love? And who defines love? In order to have a new marriage, you must start with a new you. Maybe your first step to a new marriage is changing your view of what love really is.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Read through the list below and discuss the differences.

| <u>Real Love (agape)</u> | <u>Cultural Love (eros)</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Patient | Easily Angered |
| Kind | Envious |
| Honors | Dishonors |
| Humble | Prideful |
| Selfless | Self-seeking |
| Forgives | Keeps Record |
| Unconditional | Conditional |

Read 1 John 4:7-10, 19

Why is it important to realize that God alone defines love? How did God show us His love? Why is that important? God's love went first. How do we apply that to marriage?

Read 1 John 4:18

Why is it important to know that real love is not driven by fear?

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| | <u>Last Week</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| Giving Needed: | \$9,280 | \$46,400 |
| Giving Received: | \$10,625 | \$38,428 |
| Online Giving: | www.cornerstonecc.church/give/ | |
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