

“Standing the Tests of Togetherness: Love Hopes All Things”

KEY TEXT: I Corinthians 13:7

READY:

1. How have your thoughts, attitudes or actions toward others changed this week as a result of "believing all things"?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word "hope"?

SET:

1. Primary text: **I Corinthians 13:7**
 - a. What does Paul mean by "hopes all things"?
 - b. What about the Corinthian context helps us to understanding "all things" in the framework of relationships within the church? What kinds of conflicts was this church experiencing?
2. Supporting text: **Romans 8:18-30**
 - a. Hope is a confident assurance of God's good work on behalf of His people when that good is not currently visible (cf. vv 24-25). On what is this hope grounded (cf. v 28)?
 - b. Why can hope persevere in the midst of present sufferings or conflicts?
 - c. What does Paul mean when he says that "the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (v. 27)? How does this truth help us to "hope all things" for ourselves or others?

GO:

1. Why is there a temptation to abandon hope of transformation (change) for others?
2. How does hope grounded in God's power differ from hope grounded in man's ability to change?
3. How should believers respond to one another in light of God's promise to be at work for good in our lives (v 28)?
4. How has Jesus shown you a love that "hopes all things"?
5. In what specific ways can love that "hopes all things" build up the church?

FINISH (on your own):

1. For whom do you lack hope of transformation? Why do you lack hope?
2. How can you apply the gospel to this relationship?
 - a. What evidences of God's grace can I identify in this person's life?
 - b. What promises are true for this person?
 - c. What sinful thoughts and actions do I need to confess to God?
 - d. Do I need to ask a brother or sister for forgiveness?
 - e. Which of my attitudes need correction in accordance with the gospel?