

1 Cor. 13:13 | EXTRAVAGANTLY LOVING - Expressing our Father's love through worship & community

Study Questions from 15.03.2020 sermon

Our Values

- i. Without looking them up, can you list Argyle's five new values?
- ii. 'Extravagantly Loving' deliberately follows on from 'Totally Jesus'. Why?
- iii. Read 1 Corinthians 13:13 out loud to set the scene and remind yourself of the preeminence of love in the Bible.

Love which is extravagant

- iv. Read the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11—32. This parable is one of the strongest in the Bible at describing the *extravagance* of God's love. Discuss how the parable achieves this.
- v. In his book 'The Prodigal God', Timothy Keller comments on the parable: "The word 'prodigal' does not mean 'wayward' but 'recklessly spendthrift'. It means to spend until you have nothing left. This term is therefore as appropriate for describing the father in the story as well as the younger son. The father's welcome to the repentant son was literally reckless, because he refused to 'reckon' or count his sin against him or demand repayment. This response offended the elder son and most likely the local community." Do you agree with Keller's comments? Why? Why not?

Expressing extravagant love

- vi. Kim Phuc (Napalm Girl) was cited as an example of a Christian who expressed extravagant love by forgiving and loving her enemies who had traumatised and maimed her. List ways in which we might express our Father's extravagant love through worship and community.

The imperative and the impossibility

- vii. The command to love extravagantly is an imperative - read John 13:23. Finish by spending some silent moments reminding yourself of what you are commanded to do... and also by realising how impossible this command is... so that you are pushed to the Holy Spirit to empower you to do what you can't do in your own strength.