

# Program

## FRIDAY

7:00pm *ff* Arrive, get settled, supper, free time

## SATURDAY

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am **SESSION 1**

10:45am Morning Tea

11:15am **SESSION 2**

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm *ff* **Free Time**  
(optional activities incl. Sea Bridge walk, tennis, netball, café visit, golf, nerf fun)

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm *ff* **Escape Games**  
(optional, in Acacia meeting room)

**Free Time**  
(with gourmet supper in Acacia Lower Lounge)

## SUNDAY

8:00am Breakfast & room pack-up

9:15am **SESSION 3**

10:45am Morning Tea

11:15am **SESSION 4**

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm **SESSION 5**

2:50pm Close



# ESCAPE 19

JUNE 21-23

STANWELL TOPS

*Love  
Actually*  
1 CORINTHIANS 13



SPEAKER: **Pat O'Keeffe**

# Discussion Groups

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*Talk 1***The Necessity of Love***1 Corinthians 13:1-3; John 15:1-17***How are you going in the Christian life?****1. Without Love...**

- The Sublime Speaker
- The Profound Prophets
- The Stoic Servant

**2. What is Love?**

- It is not just sheer willpower
- It is not just another gift

- Love is remaining in and reflecting the love of Jesus (c.f. John 15)

**3. What difference does love make?**

- Love turns us out from ourselves

*Scripture describes man as so curved in upon himself that he uses not only physical but even spiritual goods for his own purposes and in all things seeks only himself. – Martin Luther*

- And so love leads to:

Unity in the church

The building-up of believers

The salvation of unbelievers

**How are we going in the Christian life?**

- An encouragement
- An exhortation

*Talk 2***The Character of Love***1 Corinthians 13:4–8a; 1 John 4***Singing the Praises of Love****Overture**

- Love is patient
- Love is kind

**The 1st Movement: The inner life of love**

- Love does not envy
- It does not boast
- It is not puffed up

**The 2nd Movement: The outer life of love**

- Love does not dishonour others
- It does not seek its own way

- It is not easily angered
- It keeps no record of wrongs
- It does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth.

**The 3rd Movement: NEVER-STOPPING, NEVER GIVING UP, UNBREAKING, ALWAYS AND FOREVER Love**

- Love always...
- Love never fails

**What Kind of love is this?**

*It is a love for the utterly unworthy, a love that proceeds from a God who is love. It is a love lavished on others without a thought whether they are worthy or not. It proceeds from the nature of the lover, not from any attractiveness in the beloved. – Leon Morris*

- The love of Christ... (c.f. 1 Cor 2:2)
- ...which produces Christ-like love in us.

**Singing the Praises of Love**

*Talk 3***The Endurance of Love***1 Corinthians 13:8–13; Psalm 136***Seeing Clearly****In the beginning...**

- Nothing?
- Chaos?
- Power?
- Love.

**...throughout history...**

- In the events of Israel (c.f. Psalm 136)
- In the events of the gospel

**...for all eternity.**

*There in heaven this fountain of love, this eternal three in one, is set open without any obstacle to hinder access to it. There this glorious God is manifested and shines forth in full glory, in beams of love; there the fountain overflows in streams and rivers of love and delight, enough for all to drink at, and to swim in, yea, so as to overflow the world as it were with a deluge of love.*

– Jonathan Edwards

**'Now' and 'then'**

- Perfection
- Maturity
- Face-to-Face

**Living Now, in the light of Then**

## Reflection #1

In his series of sermons titled *Charity And Its Fruits*, Jonathan Edwards concludes most of his sermons by noting how 1 Corinthians 13 provides us with an opportunity to examine ourselves to see if we are bearing the fruit of love in our own lives. Today, we will take the opportunity to reflect individually, tomorrow we will discuss in small groups.

*(Note: It would be great for you to share your reflections with a couple of others so that we might be able to encourage each other to pursue the most excellent way of love.)*

### Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

What gifts/talents/opportunities has God given you in order to serve him and those around you?

In what ways is it a temptation for you to use those things without love? How can they be used selfishly for your own gain?

How might you be able to use those things with love? What can you do to use the gifts God has given you for Him and for others?

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the good gifts that he has given you to serve him and others. Ask God to turn you out from yourself and towards others in love.

## Reflection #2

### Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–6

Which of the things that Paul lists in these verses do you find particularly challenging? What do you find particularly difficult about living out these aspects of love?

(Choose 1 or 2 to focus on!)

For each of the following consider:

a) How do we see this aspect of love in God's love for us in Jesus?  
(See the next page for some Bible verses you can look up.)

b) How ought the gospel transform us to show more of this type of Christ-like love?

c) In what specific situations and particular ways will you be able to display this type of love?

Spend some time in prayer praising God for the perfect love he has shown us in Christ. Pray that God would transform us into the likeness of Christ by the power of his Spirit. Pray that you will be so filled by the love of Jesus that you will overflow in Christ-like love in all you say and do.

The following passages will help you think about how the love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4–6 is ultimately seen in God's love for us in Christ. What other examples can you think of from the life and ministry of Jesus?

**Love...**

...is patient

*1 Timothy 1:12–17; 2 Peter 3:8–9; Romans 2:4*

...is kind

*Ephesians 4:21–5:1; Titus 3:3–6; Romans 2:4*

...does not envy

*John 17:20–26 (esp. v. 22)*

...does not boast, ...is not puffed up

*Philippians 2:1–11*

...does not dishonour others

*Luke 7:36–50*

...is not self-seeking

*Matthew 26:36–44*

...is not easily angered

*Jonah 3:10–4:2; Romans 3:25–26*

...keeps no record of wrongs

*John 21:15–19; 2 Corinthians 5:18–21*

...does not delight in evil

*Matthew 23:37–39; Luke 19:41–46; John 11:33–35*

...rejoices with the truth

*Luke 7:1–10; John 1:14; John 14:6*

**Discussion Group****Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–13**

We have seen how the Corinthians valued the wrong things, buying into what the world around them considered to be truly important.

We, too, are constantly bombarded with messages about what really matters in life. What things does the world around us tell us are of ultimate and supreme importance?

In what ways can we as Christians, and as a church, buy into these messages? What can we pursue at the expense of pursuing the way of love?

In what ways does the story of the Bible reveal love to be at the heart of reality?

How do the different images in 1 Corinthians 13:8–13 teach us about the difference between the 'now' of this life and the 'then' when Jesus returns? How might this change the way we think about heaven?

In verse 13, Paul says that the three abiding graces of the Christian life are faith, hope, and love. From all we've talked about this weekend, how can we encourage each other as individuals and as a church to grow in each of these things?

*Faith:*

*Hope:*

*Love:*

In what ways do you think that love is the greatest of these three?

Spend some time praising God that he is love. Both in himself and towards us in the gospel. Thank God for graciously opening our eyes to see and to receive his love. Pray that we would pursue what is of eternal significance, and that God would grow us to be people of ever-growing faith, hope, and love.

