

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 7TH - 8TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

MOTIVATION (1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3)

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE...

We live in a culture that has completely screwed up what love is and how it should be expressed in how we relate to one another. Our culture has dumbed down love to an emotion best expressed in self-love: "love me enough to let me do what I want no matter the consequences to me or anyone else, even if as a Christian it goes against the Bible."

BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE

When we make love about us, we live for our needs, our pleasures, our name's sake. If we look down on each other or make each other look less than, it's okay because ultimate love is ultimately about us. For the Corinthians, spiritual giftings, though from the Spirit, had become a measuring stick by which they could elevate some and denigrate others.

CALLING OUT THE HEART

Paul could see in the Corinthians a pridefulness in how they perceived their giftedness. Yes, they were very spiritually gifted. But instead of that gifting leading to a praise of the Giver of the gifts, they praised themselves as the gifted.

- **Whenever we take our eyes off Jesus and others, we look to ourselves.**

BIG ACCOMPLISHMENTS, NO REWARDS

We can do all the right things that seem loving for all the wrong reasons. Paul sees this potential in the Corinthians. They could speak well, know much, believe much, sacrifice much, and even martyr themselves—all wonderful expressions of a Jesus-led life.

- **Without love, none of these actions amount to anything before the Lord.**

SELFLESS (1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8A)

I WANNA KNOW WHAT LOVE IS...

Our God is love (1 John 4:8). He wasn't lacking love because the 3 Persons have eternally loved one another. The Bible tells us that God has chosen to love us. God the Father loves us (John 3:16), God the Son loves us (John 13:34), and God the Holy Spirit loves us (Galatians 5:22). All we have to do is read the Bible, and we see what love is.

PRIDE KILLS LOVE FOR ANYONE ELSE BUT SELF

The Corinthians were a prideful lot. Pride produces people who are easily offended, who are short-tempered, who elevate themselves by putting others down, who boastfully brag about themselves, and who rejoice when others fail.

- **Pride fuels narcissism which sees the world through idolatrous eyes.**

HOW DISCIPLES LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Everything that pride fueled in the Corinthians (envy, boasting, arrogance, rudeness, self-seeking, irritableness, record of wrongs, joy in unrighteousness) could be snuffed out by the Holy Spirit's fruit of love. Divisions within the church would be mended by a love that is patient, kind, rejoices in the truth, bears, believes, hopes & endures all things.

LOVE WON'T EVER END

It's as though Paul is describing what Jesus has accomplished for us, which will make heaven a truly wonderful place free from the junk we manufacture in our hearts.

- **We should be a community that shows to the world what Jesus-modeled love looks like. It's a love that magnifies Jesus & others and will do so eternally.**

PERSONIFIED (1 CORINTHIANS 13:8B-13)

IT ALL MAKES SENSE

Since God is love, and He is eternal, love will never end. When Jesus comes, we won't need prophecies or tongues or knowledge to give us truth because He is truth, perfect truth. Every gift we exercise by the Spirit is partial for now because we bear them imperfectly, which points to the One Who is perfect. Paul tells them to quit boasting over the temporary gifts.

LET'S LOOK TO JESUS THE PERFECTER OF FAITH

Paul calls on the Corinthians to quit acting like spoiled children who are always fighting for their desires. He wants them to grow up and look to Jesus. They will always have room to improve, but he wants them to joyfully look to Jesus' return as a motivation for putting to death pride and putting on love.

- **Live like you'll soon see Jesus!**

GREAT ANTICIPATION

Paul wants the Corinthians to anticipate the return of Jesus. Even Paul recognizes that his great knowledge isn't anything compared to what he'll know when he sees Jesus. The gifts will be as nothing compared to Jesus. Our earthly expressions of love will be as nothing compared to Jesus. So, love one another as a preview of coming attractions.

FULFILLMENT

Paul says that on earth, we need faith, hope, and love. When Jesus returns, we won't need faith because we'll see the object of our faith, Jesus. When Jesus returns, we won't need hope because all we've ever hoped for will be fulfilled in Him.

- **Faith and hope will be fulfilled in Jesus for all eternity.**

BRINGING THE KINGDOM TO EARTH

If love will always be a part of the kingdom, the more we love with a Jesus-modeled love on earth, the more we bring Jesus' kingdom to earth. Spiritual gifts are important and build up the body of Christ. Using the spiritual gifts with love is a living, breathing expression for all to see that Jesus is real and that He can truly save.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

- Our earthly relationships should point to our heavenly hope. How are we doing?
- Are we easily bothered and irritated by others?
- **Do we carry around hurts (real or imagined) that fuel anger towards others?**
- **Are we quick to forgive others because we know God's love through being forgiven?**

KILLING PRIDE

- Does Jesus' example fuel selflessness and humility in us?
- Do we boast in our knowledge, or do we realize that we have much to learn?
- **Do we go out of our way to serve others rather than being served?**
- **When we think about seeing Jesus, do we long for Him?**

AN INVENTORY

- Do we sometimes fake our love towards one another?
- Do we truly rejoice when others excel in ways we may not?
- **Do we desire to be noticed because that fuels our self-esteem rather than Jesus?**
- **When people visit our church, do they believe Jesus loves them because of us?**