

Apply The Word

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THINK SPIRITUALLY
THE LETTER OF FIRST CORINTHIANS

Message Info

Title:

Love Makes Our
Church Healthy

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 16:1-24

Theme: Love one another so that the church stands firm and becomes useful.

Introduction: As a church, we desire to stand firm in the gospel always, and to be effective in proclaiming the gospel wherever the Lord gives us opportunity. But in order for us to endure in these traits, one fundamental must be firmly in place: love, for our Lord and for one another.

We can better understand how love is to work in the church through 3 points:

1. Love begins with righteousness

We have to understand love from a biblical perspective. The world's definitions are often self-seeking in some manner.

Paul confronted the unloving factions in the Corinthian church at various points throughout this letter, and here he urges them again to do all in love (v. 14).

True love must include righteous thinking so that we walk rightly before God and others.

Note also that Paul calls the Corinthians to "act like men" (v. 15). This is part of true righteousness in God's world. Men are to be brave and strong, fighting to protect those God has entrusted to them as an expression of love.

2. Love results in much good

One demonstration of love here is the offering collected among the Gentile Corinthians for the Jewish Christians in need in Jerusalem.

There is a powerful connection between our love for one another and our effectiveness in mission. The church's love is a powerful evangelistic draw and encouragement to one another.

3. Love must be expressed

The holy kiss was an expression of the church's love and unity. Though our conventions may be different today, the idea remains the same.

True love seeks out ways to express itself for the good of the other person.

Conversely, Paul warns those who have no love for the Lord that they are accursed. It does no good to be 'religious' but not actually love the Lord.

Questions:

1. How do you show love for the church? How might God be calling you to grow in loving others?

2. Is there anyone you find difficult to love? How does the gospel transform your perspective so you are able to love them by God's grace?

3. Do you love the Lord?