

Some Assembly Required

Week 5: "Assembled With Love"

Weekly Summary: Paul's famous words about love come not in the context of a wedding celebration, but in the context of a church family who did not appreciate their God-given differences. This message pushes God's diverse people towards humility, appreciation, and love, the glue that holds the Body of Christ together.

❖ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a - Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

❖ 1 Corinthians 12:27-30 - Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

1 Corinthians 12:31 - Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

❖ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

❖ Without love, we are **nothing**.

- ❖ “And yet I will show you the most excellent [One]. Jesus is patient, Jesus is kind. Jesus does not envy, Jesus does not boast, Jesus is not proud. Jesus does not dishonor others, Jesus is not self-seeking, Jesus is not easily angered, Jesus keeps no record of wrongs. Jesus does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Jesus always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Jesus never fails.”

- ❖ Because of love, Jesus is everything.

Points to Ponder

1. Read through 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and insert your name in place of the word “love.” Which phrases are encouraging? Which phrases are far from true? Spend time in prayer, (1) thanking the Holy Spirit for the “fruit” of love that you see and (2) confessing the times that you have fallen short of the thing that matters most.
2. Study 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Why do you think Paul placed those famous words about Jesus after this three-chapter section on gifts/love? Why do we need massive amounts of Jesus after meditating on what it looks like to love different people?
3. If you have yet to take the StrengthsFinders 2.0 test, go online and complete the survey. Join hundreds of members of our church family who are learning how God made us all unique.

Homework For Next Week: Mark 8:31-38

*“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.”
~ C.S. Lewis*