

Some Assembly Required

Week #5

Week #5: Glued by Love - 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 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.*

If we lack **love**, our gifts and strengths (no matter how great or small) have no **value**.

- 1 John 4:7-21 (select verses) -
 - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.*
 - *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*
 - *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*
 - *We love because he first loved us.*
 - *And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.*

Because I **know** love, I am **able to** love.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - *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.*

Love is God's **glue** that keeps us assembled.

- 1 Corinthians 13:8,13 - *Love never fails... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

Points to Ponder

- 1) Re-read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What is Paul's point in comparing love to the spiritual gifts that are mentioned here as well as in chapter 12?
- 2) God says our spiritual gifts, talents, and strengths are nothing if they lack agape (sacrificial, you first) love. What is the significance of that for you as you consider your strengths and talents? If you took the strengths finder test, revisit your top 5 and consider how they might be leveraged in love and used to serve others. How can you use them at home, work, and church to be a blessing to others and also honor God (be specific)?
- 3) Some Assembly Required - What are your 2 top take-aways from this series? With those 2 take-aways in mind, what specific goals do you have to put those take-aways into action? Share them with your spouse, family, and life group.

Homework: Mark 8:31-38