The Other-Focused Church

Some members of the church at Corinth had distorted ideas of spirituality. True Christian spirituality is to be filled with the love of Christ. 1 Corinthians 13 shows us what that love looks like. Chapter 16 provides a concrete example of Christ’s love at work in local church. It is easy, but deadly, to become an in-grown church. God calls us to be an *other-focused* church. You can express your love for Christ and His people by—

**1. Helping the *needy***

Galatians 6:10; Matthew 25:31-46; James 1:26-27

**2. Working with other *churches***

**3. Remaining *accountable***

**4. Setting aside *jealousy***

**5. Respecting God’s *servants***

**Application**

Great service & sacrifice without love profits *nothing*

(1 Corinthians 13:3)

Simple service out of love for Christ receives *a reward* (Mark 9:41)

**For Personal Reflection or Family Discussion**

1. What was the most important or helpful thing you heard in the sermon?

2. What questions did the sermon raise in your mind?

 What was the most convicting part of the message?

3. Paul refers to the collection for the impoverished believers in Jerusalem in—

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

2 Corinthians 8-9

Romans 15:25-28 (written from Corinth shortly after 2 Corinthians)

2 Corinthians 8-9 gives a number of important principles to guide the giving of New Testament believers. How do these chapters challenge your attitudes toward giving to the work of the Lord.

4. How can we, as a church, remain *other-focused* without neglecting the needs of our own people?

Note: Who are the *brothers* of Christ in Matthew 25:31-46? Some teach that they are all of the poor, the disadvantaged, and the oppressed. Others say they are the Jewish people living during the Tribulation. The first readers of the Gospel according to Matthew would naturally have concluded that they were the people of God in general. *And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother”* (Matthew 12:49-50).