

We Belong



**Together We Have a
Mission to Accomplish**

1 Corinthians 13







**NOT
ME!**



















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**Together We Have a
Mission to Accomplish**

1 Corinthians 13

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1. The ministry and presence of the local church becomes meaningful and relevant only when the church manifests, or makes real, the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

13:1-3

**Proclamations that
appear Spirit-filled
are meaningless
noise without love.**

13:1

**Insightful preaching
and teaching and the
capacity to believe in
the impossible are
empty without love.**

13:2

**My sacrifices for
others, if done
without love, amount
to nothing. 13:3**

**The giftedness of our
members may seem
essential to the life of
the church, but only so
far as they are
exercised with love.**

**Have I spoken and
acted in my local
church in
meaninglessness ways
because I am motivated
by self-interest instead
of love?**

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2. Instead of the self-interest of its members, the local church is to make real the self-denying, sacrificial love of Jesus Christ which endures forever. 13:4-13

**Love is acting in the
long-term best
interests of others.**

Love is self-denying.

**The Bible's description
of love is based on
God's character and
activity on our behalf.
God is love.**

**Love never fails and
will endure forever.
Therefore, all my words
and actions are to be
filled with the love of
God revealed to me in
Christ.**

**Do my words and
actions reveal the love
of Jesus in my local
church? Am I giving
myself to what matters
for eternity?**

Why does the local church need to change:

Conversion growth is declining

The cultural influence of local churches is waning

Leadership in churches is often embattled

Small-group participation is struggling

Both the evangelistic efforts and the leadership of the local church are below minimal

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**I invite you to repent of
your self-interest
regarding your local
church and commit to
acting and speaking in
love.**

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I invite you to reveal the eternal, self-sacrificial love of Jesus in and through your local church in all your words and actions.