

## **Meditations on the Message**

Sunday: April 17, 2016. *Serve One-Another*

Text: **1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14**

Re-read the above text and consider the following thoughts and questions:

1. Messages from the biblical text:
  - a. From **1 Corinthians chapter 12** we learned:
    - There is one Spirit, one Lord, one God, Who gives a great variety of gifts, according to His will, for the common good, to those who call Jesus LORD.
    - There is one body made up of a variety of parts with diverse functions. Each member is essential to the function of the body. There are, therefore, no non-essential parts.
  - b. **1 Corinthians 13** continues Paul's instructions on spiritual gifts:
    - If you have all the gifts, but don't have love, you are nothing and contribute nothing.
    - God is love and love is Godlike.
    - Love is the greatest. Pursue love.
  - c. The initial landing place from **1 Corinthians 14** was:
    - Therefore, the ministry that matters the most (the gifts which are the higher gifts) is not what brings about personal inspiration, but body edification.
2. Thoughts/Questions:
  - a. From the description of love given in the biblical text what definition would you give for love?  
(For example: love is the self-giving commitment for the ultimate good of the other.)  
How is the description/definition of love given in 1 Corinthians 13 radically different than the modern world's definition of love?
  - b. Spiritual gifts, given by God for the edification of His church, display God's presence and work among His people. How is the exercise of love a greater display of God's presence and work among God's people than the presence of gifts? (Can "gifts" be counterfeited? Can love be counterfeited?)
  - c. Concerning spiritual gifts: some argue that *all* the gifts given in the Bible are for today; some argue that *some* of the gifts are for today (they argue that the "sign" gifts that marked the Apostle's ministry have ceased), some argue that all the gifts have ceased and what remains is *faith, hope and love*.  
What difference does it make if *all* the spiritual gifts are for today, or *some* of the gifts are for today, or *none* of the gifts are for today when the priority is abiding and growing in love?  
Does love render gifts irrelevant, or provide the rails for the exercise of gifts to run on?
  - d. When you come to church is your desire to be personally inspired, or to serve the family in love and be ministered to by the gifts of others?