

This is who we are. Part 4—Love

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *What are you most looking forward to about summer?*
2. *What gift do you most need to receive from God right now?*

Digging In

Read **Ephesians 4:1-6**.

Questions:

1. *Which of the five virtues listed in Ephesians 4 do you think the church most needs to focus on at this time in its history?*
2. *Which one of the five do you most need to focus on?*
3. *When it comes to the virtue of love, what do you think is most misunderstood about it?*

Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**.

Questions:

1. *According to the definition of love found in 1 Corinthians 13, what does our culture get wrong about love?*
2. *According to the definition of love found in 1 Corinthians 13, what does the church get wrong about love?*
3. *Why do you think the first Christians focused so much on this virtue of love?*

Read **Ephesians 3:17-19**.

In both **1 Corinthians 13** and **Ephesians 3**, the first Christians intimated that knowledge is never enough: We know only in part. If we can fathom all mysteries but don't have love, it is nothing. Love surpasses knowledge.

Questions:

1. *Why do you think the early Christians were wary about becoming intelligent apart from love?*
2. *Where have you seen someone's knowledge (of Scripture, history, science, etc.) do harm because it was detached from love?*
3. *What do you think it is about love that benefits how we think, learn, and know?*

Sending Out

The commitment to growing in the ancient Christian virtue of love does more than just about anything else at exposing our Christian and human weakness. It is in our inability to love that we discover how much we need help, how much we need a Savior.

Read **John 15:9-13**.

Questions:

1. *What do you think it means to remain in Jesus' love?*
2. *In what ways have you experienced and been shaped by the love of God?*
3. *What do you think it means to love others as Christ has loved us?*
4. *Who do you need to love more like Christ?*
- 5.

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, *"What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"*

Close with prayer.