

Pastor Ed Kemp MESSAGE NOTES Sunday, July 26

Introduction	notes
1 Corinthians 12:31-14:1 And I show you a still more excellent way. 12:31	
If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.	
<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind <i>and</i> is not jealous; love does not brag <i>and</i> is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into	
account a wrong <i>suffered</i> , <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if <i>there are gifts of</i> prophecy, they will be done away; if <i>there are</i> tongues, they will cease; if <i>there is</i> knowledge, it will be done away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.	
<sup>13</sup> But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love. 13:1-13	
Pursue love. 14:1	
So What?!	
#1. What love does!  4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It does not	

dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Love = A VERB REQUIRING ACTION	
<b>#2. Who love serves!</b> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. I Cor. 12:27	
<b>#3. How love responds!</b> And now I will show you the most excellent way. I Cor. 12:31	
<b>#4. When love stops!</b> Pursue Love! I Cor. 14:1 (NASV)	
Pursue = A RELENTLESS ACTIVITY	
Set love as your goal and pursue it relentlessly!	

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Who was the first boy or girl, teacher or neighbor with whom you fell in love?

## Read: I Corinthians 12:31b-14:1a

Talk through the four so what? What difference does any of this make, action steps:

#1. What love does! "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."

Which one of these statements of love is the most difficult and the easiest for you to do? If love is a verb requiring action what's one aspect of love, which is a part of God's character, would you like to work on and what exactly would you do?

#2. Who love serves! "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

What's the most difficult part of balancing loving your family, your neighborhood, your friends and your church? Where do you spend the most time, the least time? Do you need to make a correction and spend more time on any of those?

#3. How love responds! "And now I will show you the most excellent way."

If you wanted to show your husband, wife, parents, best friend, whoever, what is the number 1 excellent thing you would do to show love?

#4. When love stops! "Pursue Love!" Set love as your goal and pursue it relentlessly is a slogan but, how are you relentless in your love of someone close to you? Why is excellence never going to be easy?

**Family Time:** Read I Corinthians 13:4-6 to your kids and ask them which one of Paul's 10 commandments about love they do best and the one they need to work on. Help them