

Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



Sermon Summary

This sermon explores what it means to follow Jesus together as a church community, not just as individuals. Using Acts 2:42-47 and 1 Corinthians 13, Pastor Ike emphasized six essential qualities of Christian community: devoted fellowship, generosity in action, joyful unity, love in action, Christ-like love, and eternal love. The message challenges us to prioritize relationships and love over activities and achievements, especially during the church's expansion season.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Community is essential, not optional** – We are not designed to be islands; following Jesus is meant to be done together.
- ✓ **Love is the greatest measure** – All our activities, gifts, and achievements are meaningless without genuine love for one another.
- ✓ **Generosity reflects Christ** – Sharing our resources with those in need is a tangible expression of Christ's love.
- ✓ **Joyful unity is attractive** – When we live in genuine community with joy, others are drawn to Christ.
- ✓ **Love is eternal** – While spiritual gifts will cease, love endures forever and should be our greatest ambition.
- ✓ **Expansion requires intentionality** – As the church grows physically, our spiritual maturity and love must grow proportionally.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Acts 2:42-47 together.** What stands out to you about how the early church lived in community? What surprises you?

2. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.** Why do you think Paul emphasizes that even great spiritual gifts are meaningless without love?
3. The sermon mentioned that 1 Corinthians 13 is often used at weddings but was actually written to the church. How does this change your understanding of the passage?

Personal Reflection

4. Pastor Ike described modern fellowship as often involving "eating food we really shouldn't eat" and talking about "things that have no eternal value." How does your current approach to fellowship compare to the "divine fellowship" described in Acts 2:42?
5. Which of the six qualities of Christian community (devoted fellowship, generosity, joyful unity, love in action, Christ-like love, eternal love) do you find easiest to practice? Which is most challenging?
6. **From 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:** Which attribute of love (patient, kind, not envious, etc.) do you most need to grow in when relating to other believers?

Application to Church Life

7. The sermon mentions that Deer Run Church is entering an "expansion season" with potential inconveniences. How can we ensure that frustrations during this season don't rob us of joy and unity?
8. Pastor Ike said, "We must be cautious against prioritizing activities over relationships." Can you think of times when the church (or you personally) has fallen into this trap? How can we guard against it?
9. Jesus said, "By this people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (John 13:35). What specific ways can our small group demonstrate this love to each other and to the broader church community?

Practical Applications

This Week:

- **Practice "divine fellowship":** When you gather with other believers this week, intentionally steer at least one conversation toward spiritual matters—how God is working, what you're learning, prayer needs, etc.
- **Love in action:** Choose one attribute from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 to focus on this week in your church relationships. Share which one you chose with the group for accountability.
- **Generosity check:** If you're not currently giving to the church, prayerfully consider joining in the generosity of the community. If you are giving, consider one additional way you could be generous (time, talents, or treasure).