

A Still More Excellent Way

Desire...

motivated towards acts of love
towards those around you.

Application

- When I am at church, do all people know I follow Christ by my love for them?
- When I am at home, does my family know I follow Christ by my love for them?
- When I am at work, do my co-workers know I follow Christ by my love for my fellow Christians?

March Newsletter

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Focus

“Establish, affirm, and maintain an intentional spiritual relationship with every active member of SNCCC and visitor in our midst.”

This focus strikes at the core of what it means to be a Christian who is part of a local church. In John 13:34, Jesus commands us to *love one another*. His design from the very beginning was for there to be local communities with shared spiritual interest committed to one another in love, and He has established the local church as the environment where this kind of community takes place. The church is to be a group of people who have “shared personal relationships with a spiritual thrust” that build up and encourage one another. Leadership is established in the church to care for and protect the flock, as well as serve as an example of Christ-like character and service.

Biblical Basis

A New Commandment

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35 ESV

How?

1 Corinthians

13

1 Cor 12 ESV

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ...

1 Cor 12 ESV

25 that there may be no division in the body, **but that the members may have the same care for one another.** 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Cor 12 ESV

31 And I will show you a still more excellent way. (ESV)

1 Cor 12 ESV

31 And I will show you a still more excellent way. (ESV)

31 But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.
(NLT)

1 Cor 13 ESV

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Cor 13 ESV

- 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 8 Love never ends.

Love

Does / Is	Does Not / Is Not
patient	envy
kind	boast
rejoices with truth	arrogant
bears all things	rude
believes all things	insist on its own way
hopes all things	irritable
endures all things	resentful / keep record of wrong
never fails	rejoice with wrong doing

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Benediction

Hebrews 10:23-25 (ESV)

“23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. 24 **Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.** 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, **but encourage one another**, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”