

Called to Love

Which is more important to have—a lot of knowledge, or a lot of love?

I remember well the day I was ordained into the ministry. Part of the rite of ordination is having other pastors circle around the candidate, each pastor laying hands on the candidate and quoting a Scripture passage. Occasionally a seasoned pastor will offer some additional words of wisdom or brief commentary on God's word.

As I think back, I can remember the wisdom shared by one of those pastors at my ordination. When he laid hands on me, he said, "Brother Ken, remember this. 'People don't care what you know until they know that you care.'" I can't remember offhand the Scripture he then quoted, but I can remember the truth he spoke.

Wise words, indeed—ones I have tried to live by and strive to do better living out. Start with caring. Start with love. Love like Jesus did.

That takes us to the theme for this devotion and for worship this coming Sunday: "Called to Love."

We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. 1 Corinthians 8:1

The church in Corinth had gotten things turned around. They were sophisticated. Knowledgeable. Gifted. Intelligent. Some might even say that many members of that church were "elite." Somehow, all those qualities—regardless of whether the Corinthian Christians came by those qualities because of their innate, God-given abilities; or through gifts of the Spirit; or because of their status (think: born into a good family)—none of those qualities could ever trump "love."

"the greatest of these is love" 1 Corinthians 13:13

The type of love spoken of here is the self-sacrificing love that led Jesus to pour out His life for us on the cross. The Corinthian church, although rich in knowledge, had a "love deficit disorder."

"knowledge puffs up while love builds up"

You and I—and all of God's people—are called to love. Love is an essential ingredient in building others up in a world where people are continually being torn down or torn apart. You and I also need that God-sourced, forgiving love lavished on us in order to build us up as well. (What we have experienced we can readily put into practice. What we have received we can readily give away.)

As the Lord continues to work in our hearts, as we continue to hear the call of God, we also heed that call to love. "We love, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

The world may care less about what we know or what we want to tell them. But people are dying to be built up by an eternal, life-restoring love. Start with caring. Start with love. Love like Jesus did.

And the world will never be the same again, all to the thanks and praise of the God of love.

~ Pastor Ken, Senior Pastor

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