

Testing

Intro:

Mk 12:28-31

No greater commandment than these - Jesus made them into one- two sides of the same coin...
(Love God love people)

Problem:

Jn 13:1-17, 31-35

The Corinthians, like the disciples...and us were ambitious, inauthentic, cold hearted sinners who were called to a supernatural impossible task.

We are not called to merely love our neighbor - but to do something else entirely - we are called to love one another like He loved us...

As Paul ends this letter he is going to give some basic advice for this unhealthy unhappy church but lest we mistake what he is saying lets turn to Hebrews...

Heb 12:1-2

But despite all their problems Paul sums up for them the secret to fixing their selfish ambition, their spiritual inauthenticity, their lack of supernatural affection...and it wasn't trying harder

Main Idea:

Look to Jesus and give up your ambition
Look to Jesus and guard your authenticity
Look to Jesus and grow in your affection

Implication:

1 Jn 3:11-15

We are called to a supernatural kind of love...an impossible kind of love. If you are not a Christian this is the most condemning thing you will find in the Bible - you cannot live this life in your flesh - you will constantly be seen as an imposter...

Application:

1 Jn 4:16-21

Stop trying to love one another in your own strength - stop expecting everyone to be lovable

Look to Jesus and His love...then you will find it easy to love one another truly

He loved you first...He still does (when love sees you)

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-ambition.html>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-14-deadly-sin-hypocrisy-acts-436-511>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-do-men-and-women-show-physical-affection-in-the-church>

Testing

Text:

Look to Jesus and give up your selfish ambition

2Corinthians 13:1 ¶ This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

2Corinthians 13:2 I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—

2Corinthians 13:3 since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.

2Corinthians 13:4 **For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God.** For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

1 cor 1:10-3:4 (the ongoing subtext of both letters is the unrepentant sin of selfish ambition)

1 cor 3:18-4:6 (the corinthians were being -puffed up against one another by false teachers who needed to repent)

1 cor 8:1 (puffed up in their special knowledge and position...Paul given thorn to protect him from this very thing)

1 Tim 3:1, 6 (not just the corinthians - cain, Korahs rebellion, the Colossians, the disciples, pastors...)

1 Tim 6:2b-10 (selfish ambition comes from those who see godliness as a means of gain - best seats, large tassels being called teacher - in short status...what's the answer?)

Phil 2:1-11 (give up your selfish ambition looking to Jesus crucified in weakness but living by the power of God)

Look to Jesus and guard your spiritual authenticity

2Corinthians 13:5 ¶ **Examine yourselves**, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves.** Or do you not realize this about yourselves, **that Jesus Christ is in you?**—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

2Corinthians 13:6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test.

2Corinthians 13:7 But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.

2Corinthians 13:8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

2Corinthians 13:9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. **Your restoration is what we pray for.**

2Corinthians 13:10 For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me **for building up and not for tearing down.**

1 Cor 11:23-31 (test yourself week by week - repentant faith)

2 cor 11:1-4 (what Jesus are you looking to?)

Gal 1:6-9 (what gospel?)

gal 5:1-7 (what righteousness? Faith working through love)

gal 5:16-26 (what fruit?)

2 Pet 1:1-15 (test yourself are these qualities increasing - look to Jesus and guard your spiritual authenticity)

Look to Jesus and grow your supernatural affection

2Corinthians 13:11 ¶ Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

2Corinthians 13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

2Corinthians 13:13 All the saints greet you.

2Corinthians 13:14 ¶ **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

heb 10:23-25 (a usual benediction a holy kiss - never more important than here - our meeting together is to be regular and affectionate - the eph church is revelation lost their first love...what did it likely look like?)

1 Jn 3:11-15 (implication)

1 jn 4:16-21 (application)