

## NEXT STEPS

Series "Jesus Asking"

Message title: "Am I Growing?" 3/22/26

Next Steps are designed to be used in your small group settings. Need a group? Let us help!

*13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 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. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 NIV

This is the fifth Sunday of Lent. Next week will be Palm Sunday as we get a little closer to our Easter celebration. How is your personal Lenten journey going? What have you learned?

We, as a loved people, are called to love others. How do we do that? What is love anyway? How do you experience it? How does your significant other experience it? (Don't know? Check with Brad and Chelsie)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (printed above). Does the love you described in the last section match up with the description of love as outlined in this passage? What is similar? What is different? Where have you seen that type of love before? Who showed it to you?

2 Corinthians 3:18 says: All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Growing. Being transformed. Going from one degree of love to another. Are you growing in love that way? What does that look like?

We, as believers, are called to be transformed into the image of Christ. We were created in the image of God. We know that God is love. Still with me? We know that Jesus is the son of God. Would it not make sense that in order to look and love like Jesus that we should do the things that Jesus did? How did Jesus "say" that he loves us? Read John 13:1-17. Where is the love? Jesus tells them/us that when we have received, then we are to share likewise. How would you say that you love? How do you serve? List off those ways.

We must remember (in these busy times) to keep our priorities in order. The Lenter reader reminds us that there is a difference between receptibility and activity. Staying busy with tasks (yes, even church work) and doing what appears to be "good" does not show transformation. Transformation results in you realizing it isn't about you but rather it is all about Jesus. Are our words, actions, and deeds sharing the genuine love of Christ? Are we growing in our understanding of and ability to share that love with others? Share now!

Palm Sunday is next week! Easter is the following week! Now is the time to celebrate!

Who deserves to join you on this journey? When will you ask?

Remember, we have gathered in worship; now it is time to go and be the church.

***"Living intentionally in a Christlike manner to bring glory to God"***  
**the Church**