1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13
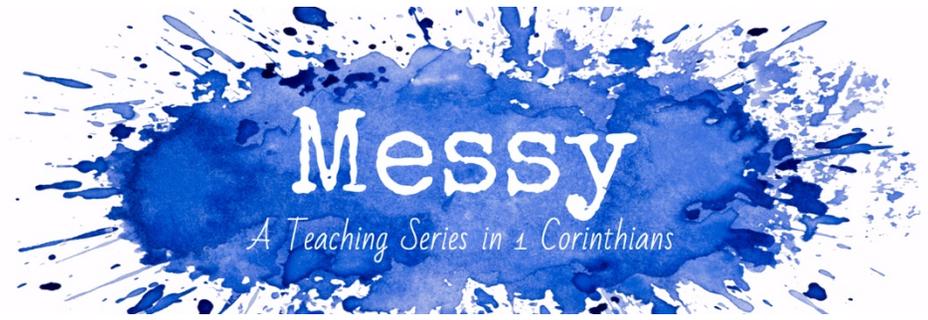
³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

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.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Messy
A Teaching Series in 1 Corinthians

Spiritual Gifts: Love Wins   *2/11/2018*
1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13
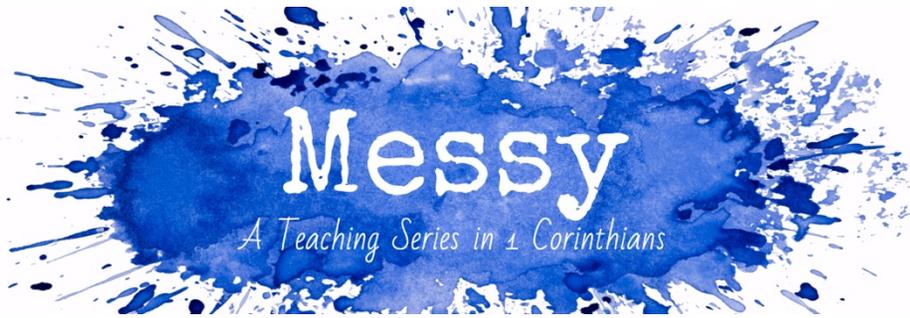
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
- In the Bible, love is first of all an **action**, an unconditional **commitment**, a **promise** not broken.

THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY
- Love itself is **not** a spiritual gift. It's the chief Christian **virtue**.
- Paul wrote these words in 1 Corinthians 13 to help solve the specific problem of the **destructive** manner in which the Corinthians were using their spiritual gifts.
- This chapter shows us the **ideal** for which we should always strive, even as we are painfully aware of how **far** we still have to go.
- "LOVE" in 1 Corinthians 13 is *agape*: **unconditional** love, like God's love.

LEARNING TO LOVE
- Learn to *love* Jesus, and to *love like* Jesus…Learn how to **see** Jesus, and increasingly learn how to **display** Jesus.
- We must never insist that everyone **imitate** the gift that we have.
- Love doesn't **demand** our rights, but works tirelessly for the rights of others.
- To truly love will also help us to see and understand love's **limits** and it will help us to avoid **co-dependency**.

Messy

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1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13
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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS
To catch the weekend message, go to: MissionTrailsChurch.com or the MTC App.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIGGING DEEPER
1. If you need to, re-read **1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13**
Why do you think the spiritual gifts listed in 13:1-3 are particularly unhelpful, if used without love?

2. There are lots of ways to describe the characteristics of truly Godly love, but why do you think these descriptions are particularly important?

3. Why is it that spiritual gifts will "cease" and "pass away" and "disappear"?

GETTING PERSONAL
4. How would you compare and contrast our culture's view of love with the Bible's description of love.

5. How is it that increasingly knowing the love of God for you, in Christ, will help you to be someone who loves rightly and well?

BRINGING IT HOME

6. What do you think FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE are so important in the Christian life?

7. Are there any of the characteristics of love listed in 13:4-7 that you do not see reflected in your life?
Why do you think that is?
How can you practically experience the love Christ for you *more* in your own life?

PRAY TOGETHER