

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY



The Pursuit of Love - 1 Corinthians 14:1-40

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Love is more than an emotion; it's the way Jesus builds up His church.

Each of us is like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle. When all the pieces fit together, the world sees a beautiful, completed picture of the body of Christ.

First Corinthians 14 deals with the way spiritual gifts (specifically prophecy and tongues) are used within the body of Christ - *to build up the church in love.*

A. Believers in Christ pursue love and desire gifts to build up the church.

1. The loving use of spiritual gifts should be _____ to other believers (vv. 1-12)
2. The loving use of spiritual gifts should be _____ to God (vv. 13-25)
3. The loving use of spiritual gifts should be _____ in the church (vv. 26-40)
 - Not, "what do I want to _____," but "where is there a _____?"
 - Not, "what gifts do I _____," but "how can I _____?"
 - Not, "who is meeting my _____?" but, "whose _____ can I meet?"

B. Believers in Christ sacrificially love others and selflessly their gifts to serve Him and others

You have a unique **SHAPE** to serve Him and others in a way that makes your ministry essential to building up the church.

- **Spiritual Gifts** - how God has supernaturally empowered you to do to serve Him and others
 - **Heart** - what you love to do and what you care about the most
 - **Abilities** - the natural talents God has given you and specific skills you have developed
 - **Personality** - the way you uniquely think, feel, learn, process, serve, and relate to others
 - **Experiences** - how your family, education, relationships, successes, failures, hurts, and trials have impacted you.
1. Use your SHAPE to _____ the Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Use your SHAPE to _____ the body of Christ.
 3. Use your SHAPE to _____.