

Part 7: Getting There Together Associate Pastor Shawn Cunningham July 17 & 18, 2010

1 Peter 4:7-11

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Perspectives on Loving One Another Deeply

God the Father's perspective (1 John 4:8,16; John 3:16; Exodus 34:6-7)

Peter's perspective (1 Peter 4:8-11, 2:16-17)

Jesus' perspective (John 13:1b, 34; John 15:9-17; Revelation 2:4)

My personal perspective

The proof of God in me is a life of love.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. – Galatians 5:22-23

What comes against loving one another deeply?

Distraction

Discouragement

Deception

Disobedience

Division (James 3:5-6,9-10, Ephesians 4:29-32)

We Need a Course Correction

Peter's reflection on his last day with Jesus: (John 13:34, 15:12-14, 15:17, 1 John 3:23-24)

To **remain** is to **abide:** to remain stable or fixed in a state; to continue in a place; to continue unchanged.

Christian community starts with me.

- An abiding word together
- An abiding prayer together
- An abiding worship together
- An abiding fellowship together

This is the answer to Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-26!

Next Steps

- Plan now to attend the Discovery Class starting Sunday, September 26 (morning and evening sessions available). It's the best way we offer to discover your passion, purpose and spiritual gifts. As you learn about God's unique design for your life and how you're wired, you'll also find out how you can serve others in ways that fit who you are.
- Act on one of these opportunities to experience authentic Christian community and get involved in one-another ministry:

Men & Women: Become part of a home small group. Stop by the Connection Point today and fill out a Group Life interest form to get started.

Men: Band of Brothers meets every Tuesday night from 6:00-9:00 PM here at CTK. Free dinner included! Visit www.bellinghambob.org to find out more.

Group Life Discussion	 Are there some great moments this summer that you have experienced with others? What about some future gatherings? Share!
Questions	2. What are some ways God has gifted you that you are able to share with others?
	Can you think of a time someone has served you or you were able to serve someone else and it resulted in a blessing? Tell us about it.
	4. Are there some things in your life that may be preventing you from experiencing a loving Christian community? What are they?
	5. What are some steps that you could take to love others and experiencing Christian community?
	6. How can we pray for you today?