

**Mountain Of The Lord Church & Ministries February 26, 2000**  
**Why The Goal Of Love**  
**1 Timothy 1:5**

## **I. Introduction**

**The Lord gave this word to us as a church for this year.** As I sought the Lord during December, the Lord strongly impressed me that this was a major word for our body this year. There are two things I felt strongly about, the book of 1 Timothy and the book of Ephesians. The Lord has a word for our body through both of them. In the book of 1 Timothy, this verse has stood out above the rest.

Last week, we looked at the goal of love. This week we are going to be looking at why we should have love as our goal. We are going to look into the reasoning behind Paul's statement and why it should be the goal of the church. We will be looking at 6 primary reasons why Love Should Be Our Goal.

My purpose in sharing these messages is that we would be rooted and grounded in love. I also desire that at all times all our actions would be motivated by love. Instead of asking what would Jesus do, we should be asking what is the loving thing to do. Jesus would always do the loving thing, because God is love. Another purpose in these messages is that we would verify that the Lord is our first love. If we have left our first love, then the Lord says He will remove our lamp stand. I want Mountain Of The Lord to be a church set on a high hill, a mountain. I want our good works to shine before men so that they will glorify our Father in heaven. I want us to be a loving church, a church that is passionately in love with the Lord, genuinely loving one another and compassionately reaching out and loving those who don't know Christ.

## **II. Why The Goal Of Love**

**1. It is the greatest commandment.** Every book that I have ever read on setting goals give the following principle. They say that you need to set high goals. You need to set goals that are high enough to excite and motivate you.

Jesus says in Matthew 22:35-40 that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all your heart and the second is like unto it, that you should love your brother as yourself. If those are the two greatest commands, the two greatest or highest goals that we could set would be to love the Lord with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Why the goal of love? Because it is the highest goal that we can set.

It also happens to be part of the vision that the Lord gave for this church before it was even founded. We want to be faithful to run with the vision that the Lord has given for us.

"And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

**2. Love is an earmark of the church.** An earmark is a method of identifying livestock. They use to brand livestock, but they have found easier and less painful ways of tagging and identifying animals. They now use tags which they put in an animals ear.

My father had a pig and cattle farm in Tennessee when I was growing up. We had yellow plastic tags that identified my father's cattle. Although we are not livestock, a love tag in our lives will identify us as our Father's children, that we are His sheep. Love is the way that Jesus said that people would be able to tell if we are His disciples. Look what He says in John 13:34-35.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

In the Old Testament, it was the circumcision that identified the people of God from the heathen nations. In the New Testament, we are given 10 ways in the book of 1 John that will identify a true believer from a non-believer. There should be some differences in our lives that will clearly separate us from the world. Sometimes it is difficult to tell the difference. Statistically, the church does not differ much from the world right now. BUT, that is changing because judgment is beginning in the house of the Lord. However, in the book of 1 John and in all the New Testament, the primary way is by our love.

John goes to a great deal to explain what love is. In two weeks, we will be looking at what love is. If you remember the illustration about Howard Hill from last week, (He was the greatest archer that ever lived.) he could not hit the target as well as us if we took away his vision of the target. We want to clearly see the target. We want to clearly identify the target. We want to know exactly what love is. So, in two weeks, we will be taking a much closer look at what love is.

**3. We are to be conformed to God's image and God is love.** We are not to be conformed to the world, but transformed into the image of Christ. He is love and so we need to be love. Jesus said that His disciples would be known by their love for one another. Everything God does is in love. He died for us, demonstrating His love (Romans 5:8). He has adopted us and called us His children, showing His great love for us (1 John

3:1). He is love and we are to become conformed to His image. Our lives must be characterized by love for Him and love for one another.

1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

(1 John 3:1) "See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

**4. We are to love because of it's surpassing value.** 1 Corinthians 13 can be divided into three sections. The first section is on the surpassing value of love. We are going to finish today by looking at the two sections of 1 Corinthians 13. The first section is about the surpassing value of love.

<b>Outline of I Corinthians 13</b>	
I. The Surpassing Value of Love	1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3
2. The Components of Love	1 Corinthians 13:4-7
3. The Duration of Love	1 Corinthians 13:8-13

It is more important than the gifts of the Spirit. Without love the gifts of the Spirit are meaningless. They are noisy gongs. Without love, the people who exercise the gifts are nothing. Without love, the gifts of the Spirit will not profit you. Love must be the root ingredient of all that we do.

### The Value of Love (1Corinthians 12:31-13:3)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of tongues.</li> </ul>	<p>(1 Corinthians 14:5) "Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of prophecy.</li> </ul>	<p>(1 Corinthians 14:5) "Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of wisdom or knowledge</li> </ul>	<p>(James 1:5) "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of faith.</li> </ul>	<p>(Hebrews 11:6) "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." (1 Cor 13:13) But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of giving or mercy.</li> </ul>	<p>(Jude 1:21-23) "keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than martyrdom.</li> </ul>	<p>(John 15:13) ""Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."</p>

<b>Profile Comparison</b>	
<b>Mr. P.O. Sition of 1 Timothy 1</b>	<b>Apostle Paul</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charisma, charm, looks, dressed impeccably. Liked to be seen and noticed. Liked their position of leadership.</li> <li>• Wanted to be teachers of the law without really understanding the law and why it was given. They were making confident assertions without knowing the truth.</li> <li>• Paid attention to myths and endless genealogies. The fruit was fruitless discussions and strife.</li> </ul> <p>BUT: he lacked love. His motivation for all the above was not love, but to gain reputation and position.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small in stature (name)</li> <li>• Poor eyesight--Galatians 6:11</li> <li>• Not eloquent in speech--1 Cor 2:1</li> <li>• Unimpressive in person--2 Cor 10:10</li> <li>• Weakness, fear and trembling 1 Cor 2:3</li> <li>• Gift of teaching--Acts 13:1</li> <li>• Calling of Apostle--Rom 1:1, 2 Cor 12:11-12</li> </ul> <p>BUT, Paul's motive was love. He flowed in the gifts and power of the H.S., but his was done with the motivation of love.</p> <p>(1 Timothy 1:5) "But the goal of our instruction is <b>love</b> from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."</p>

<b>Spencer's New Ford Car</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2000 Model</li> <li>• Beautiful car, shiny, new, polished</li> <li>• Best stereo money could buy</li> <li>• Nice leather interior</li> <li>• Spacious and comfortable</li> <li>• Finest tires on the market</li> <li>• Power windows, locks, dual air,</li> </ul> <p>BUT, if it was missing one part--the engine it would be worthless. If the engine of love is missing in our church, we would be like a car without an engine, looking okay on the outside but worthless and unfruitful.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The sounds of the stereo were just noise without the engine.</li> <li>2. All the bells and whistles, the features, the power locks, windows, remote door locks and alarms, etc. were of no value without the engine.</li> <li>3. You could give the car away to the needy through Blood &amp; Fire, but the car is worthless to them without the engine. They can't use it.</li> </ol>

## The Church At Ephesus

1. Strong in teaching	Acts 18:24-25 Acts 19:20	"Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;" "So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing."
2. Encouraging	Acts 18:27	(Acts 18:27) "And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he helped greatly those who had believed through grace;"
3. Evangelistic	Acts 18:28 Acts 19:10	"for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ." (Apollos) "And this took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks." (Paul)
4. Apostolic care and covering	Acts 19:1	"And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples,"
5. Proper government in church (elders)	Acts 20:17	"And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church."
6. Gifts of the spirit (tongues & prophesies)	Acts 19:6	"And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying."
7. Extraordinary miracles, signs, healings, deliverances.	Acts 19:11-12	"And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out."
8. They had a fear of the Lord.	Acts 19:17	"And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.
9. The name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.	Acts 19:17	"And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

10. There was genuine repentance and revival.	Acts 19:18-19	Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.
11 They were faithful in the Lord.	Ephesians 1:1	"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:"
12. They were hard working and accomplished many deeds.	Revelation 2:2	"I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;"
13. They were persevering and had much endurance.	Revelation 2:2-3	(Rev 2:2-3) "I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; {3} and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary."
14. They were discerning.	Revelation 2:2	"I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;"
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BUT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">They had left their first love.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remember...</li> <li>2. Repent...</li> <li>3. Do the deeds...</li> </ol>	Revelation 2:1-7	""To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place-- unless you repent. Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'"

**5. Because Love Never Fails.** All the spiritual gift and passion tests ask you a visionary question to draw out from you what you would really like to do. The question goes like this, "If you could do anything that you wanted and know that it would not fail, what would it be?" Many people do not pursue the things that they want to do because of a fear of failure. When you know that you will not fail, it gives you confidence.

(1 Cor 13:8) "Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away."

In my first year on the PGA Tour in 1978, I was playing in the Bank Of Boston Classic in Worcester, MA. As I went out on the back nine, I saw Ben Crenshaw practicing 10 foot putts on the putting green. As I finished the back nine a couple of hours later, there was Ben Crenshaw still making the same ten foot putt. I went over and talked with Ben. He had a chalk line out on the green and was putting on it. He had made so many putts on that line that he had worn a groove between himself and the hole. Every putt he hit followed that groove and went into the hole. He told me that he wanted to get used to seeing every putt go in. He was working on his confidence.

Another player, quite famous in golf, named Gary Player also believed in developing confidence in putting. He would make 1 foot putts for several minutes before going out on his rounds. He wanted to develop his confidence in those short putts. This gave him confidence in being aggressive at his longer putts.

The putting genius in the golf world is a man named David Pelz. He was a rocket scientist who developed a passion for the game of golf. He researched everything there is about the short game and drew some conclusions to help people score better. He came up with a number of different games and drills to help golfers improve their putting and their confidence. He wanted to help people win and not fail in their short games.

Many people that I meet lack self confidence. The Lord wants His people to be successful and to prosper. He has given us the key to never failing. That key is LOVE. 1 Corinthians 13:8 says that love never fails. Love will give you the confidence that you need to succeed instead of failing.

- Do you want confidence with your spouse or with your children? Are you tired of failing? Make love the goal of your marriage. Based on the authority of the word of God I declare you will not fail.
- Do you want to be part of a church that does not fail? The goal of this church is to love. It will not fail as long as we keep love as our goal.
- Do you want a business that does not fail? Make love the goal and it will not fail. You will succeed, because God will be for it. "If God is for you, who can be against you?"



**6. Because Of The Timeless Value Of Love.** If you could invest some money in Company A that will pay you dividends for 5 years or you can invest in Company B that will pay the same dividends, only it will pay them for 20 years, which company will you invest in. There are many things that we can invest our lives and energy in. There are many goals we can pursue in life. But the Lord says that some things are temporal and some are eternal. We are encouraged to pursue eternal things.

We are told to pursue spiritual gifts. However, the Scriptures say that the gifts are temporal. Let's take a look at 1 Corinthians 13:8-13.

(1 Cor 13:8-13) "Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. {9} For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; {10} but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. {11} When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. {12} For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. {13} But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

The gift of prophecy will be done away with. Tongues will cease. Knowledge will be done away with. There will come a point when we no longer need these aids because we will not see in part. We will see fully. We will not know in part, we will have full knowledge. We won't be childish in our thinking and speaking, we will be fully grown and mature. I believe that this time is when we are in heaven. I believe this is when we are gathered to be with the Lord forever. Until then, until we see and know fully, we need the various gifts.

But, the Lord says that love will never be done away with. Love has eternal value. Because of its eternal value, it is of greater value than the gifts. It is the greatest. We are not to discount or minimize the importance of the gifts. No, we are to strongly encourage the gifts, only we are to recognize that love is of higher value.

As a goal, I want our church to be a prophetic church. I want the spirit of prophecy to flow in our midst. I want to fan into flames all of your spiritual gifts. It is time for the body to begin to be the body and flow in their giftings. BUT, they must be done in love. Our primary goal needs to be love. Otherwise, we are just a noisy gong, or a clanging cymbal.

Love is an investment that will keep paying returns forever and ever and ever. It has a timeless value, an eternal value.

Today, we have looked at six reasons why Paul made love the goal of his instruction.

4. We want to have love as our goal because it is the greatest commandment.
5. We want love as our goal because it should be the earmark of the church, that which identifies us as the people of God.
6. We want to have love as our goal because we want to become conformed to His image and God is love.
7. We want to have love as our goal because of it's surpassing value.
8. We want to have love as our goal because it never fails. We can be confident in all that we do when we have love.
9. We want love as our goal because of it's timeless value.

I am going to ask each one of you to examine your own walk before the Lord. Has love been the motivation behind everything that you do? If not, I want you to get before the Lord and tell Him that you want to change, that you want to be motivated by love in all that you do.

If you were on trial today for love, would you be convicted. Is there enough evidence in your life that you are a person of love. Are you wearing the earmark of love that easily identifies you as God's child. If not, ask the Lord to give you a new earmark. Some of you may have lost yours in the thickets of life. Ask the Lord for a new earmark of love.

Some of you have never received Jesus Christ into your life. Because of that, you don't have the earmark of love. The Lord would say to you that today is the day of salvation. In the book of 1 John 4:7-8 it says, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. {8} The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." You don't have the earmark of God because you don't know God, for God is love. If you would like to receive Christ today, please come forward. Don't put off the most important decision that you can make. Don't put off an investment in your future which has a timeless value, which has a surpassing value over everything else in life. Come forward today. Receive Christ into your heart today.

Some of you have not been succeeding; instead there are areas of your life that you have been failing at. You recognize that if love had been your goal, you would not be in the jam you are in today. You want to repent and you want to ask God to bring you great success. You want to grow confident and successful in your life through love.

Let's do business with the Lord. Please come forward.

**Mountain Of The Lord Church & Ministries**  
**Why The Goal Of Love? 1 Timothy 1:5**

**February 26, 2000**

1. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 22:35-40
2. Love is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the church. John 13:34-35.
3. We are to be \_\_\_\_\_ to God's image and God is love. Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:1, 1 John 4:7-8, 1 John 3:1
4. We are to love because of it's \_\_\_\_\_ value.

- more than \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 14:5
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- more than \_\_\_\_\_ James 1:5
- more than \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 11:6, 1 Cor 13:13
- more than \_\_\_\_\_ Jude 1:21-23
- more than \_\_\_\_\_ John 15:13

**Apostle Paul:** Gal 6:11, 1 Cor 2:1, 2 Cor 10:10, 1 Cor 2:3, Acts 13:1, Rom 1:1, 2 Cor 12:11-12

**Church at Ephesus**

- Strong in \_\_\_\_\_ . Acts 18:24-25, Acts 19:20
- \_\_\_\_\_ .Acts 18:27
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Acts 18:28, 19:10
- \_\_\_\_\_ covering. Acts 19:1
- Proper \_\_\_\_\_ in church (elders). Acts 20:17
- Gifts of Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 19:6
- Extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_, signs, healings and deliverances. Acts 19:11-12
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Acts 19:17
- Name of the Lord was being \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 19:17
- There was genuine repentance \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 19:18-19
- There were \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord. Ephesians 1:1
- Hard \_\_\_\_\_, many deeds. Revelation 2:2
- \_\_\_\_\_ and had much endurance. Revelation 2:2-3
- \_\_\_\_\_. Revelation 2:2

**But, they had left their 1st love** Revelations 2:1-7

1. Remember.... 2. Repent.... 3. Do the deeds...

5. Because love \_\_\_\_\_ . 1 Cor 13:8
6. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of love. 1 Cor 13:8-13

**Applications For My Life:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## The Value of Love (1Corinthians 12:31-13:3)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of tongues.</li> </ul>	<p>1 Corinthians 14:5 "Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy...."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of prophecy.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of wisdom or knowledge</li> </ul>	<p>James 1:5 "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than the gift of giving or mercy.</li> </ul>	<p>Jude 1:21-23 "keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. And have mercy on some, who are doubting...."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more valuable than martyrdom.</li> </ul>	<p>John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."</p>

<b>The Church At Ephesus</b>	
1. Strong in teaching	Acts 18:24-25; 19:20
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7. Extraordinary miracles, signs, healings, deliverances.	Acts 19:11-12
8. Fear of the Lord.	Acts 19:17
9. Name of the Lord Jesus magnified.	Acts 19:17
10. Genuine repentance and revival.	Acts 19:18-19
11. Faithful in the Lord.	Ephesians 1:1
12. Hard working, many deeds.	Revelation 2:2
13. Persevering, much endurance.	Revelation 2:2-3
14. Discerning.	Revelation 2:2
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BUT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">They had left their first love.</p> <p>1. Remember...</p> <p>2. Repent...</p> <p>3. Do the deeds...</p>	Revelation 2:1-7