

# Church alive in love

- NT a photo album of churches
- Corinth – lively, gifted but tensions
- They also struggled
- This sublime chapter, heart of NT Christianity
- The centrality & characteristics of love

# What is this love?

*Three Greek words :*

- *Eros : sexual love, erotic*
- *Filos : brotherly love, friendship*
- *Agape : Christlike love, self giving.*
- *Doesn't mean I like everybody, agree with everybody, want to hug everybody!*
- *It's actions not feelings!*
- *In all my relationships I seek to reflect the self giving Spirit of Jesus.*

# The life blood of NT Christianity

- *"I command you to love one another as I love you" John 15:12*
- *"Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them" Romans 12:9*
- *"Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you & gave himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins". Ephesians 5:2*

- ***“And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.”  
Col.3:14***
- ***“Most important of all, continue to show deep love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8***
- ***“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God & knows God.” 1 John 4:1ff***

# Love's diagnosis!

- *“Love is patient & kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices when the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, & endures through every circumstance.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

# Where love counts!

- Love begins at home. *Eph.5:25 ff*
- Love matures within the church
- Love overflows into our world.

# Seven characteristics of a Church alive in Love!!

- Awareness – *did you see?*      *Our eyes!*
- Respect – *honour one another*      *Our mind!*
- Service – *what can I do?*      *Our hands!*
- Generosity – *maximum.*      *Our will!*
- Loyalty – *no betrayal*      *Our tongues!*
- Spontaneity – *not calculating*      *Our spirit!*
- Forgiveness – *in it together!*      *Our heart!*

# I can't be like that!

- *“But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us : love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self control.” “If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”  
Galatians 5:22,25*