

The Missing Ingredient

Detailed Outline

Part 1 of 6

"Pursue love . . ." (1 Cor. 14:1)

"Above all these put on love" (Col. 3:14)

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly" (1 Peter 4:8)

I. Introduction: Leaders are in the people business

If we are in the people business, we must love people!

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (Eph. 5:25)

" . . . which he obtained with his own blood." (Acts 20:28b)

Therefore, it is a big deal to God who takes care of his people. Imagine the immense price paid to purchase us, the price of divine blood. God doesn't want them roughed up, he doesn't want us to drive the sheep, to neglect them, or be bullying them. Remember when you children were little, you were very careful about who you got to babysit them.

Think of the shepherd out in the field with a sheep with a rod in his hand. That rod is for the wolf or the bear. Never for the sheep. The shepherd leads the sheep out gently.

A. The missing ingredient

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (1 Cor. 13:1)

1. Love is often missing in leadership training.
 - a) We tend to train men for leadership in theology, hermeneutics, exegesis, how to counsel, Greek, Hebrew—all wonderful things.
 - b) In leadership seminars we give teaching on courage, resourcefulness, vision, conviction, how to disciple, decisiveness.
 - c) Have you ever been to a seminar on leadership on how to love people?
 - d) If the ingredient of love is missing, then we are like a noisy gong.
2. Love is indispensable to leading and teaching.
 - a) Why is this so necessary?
 - b) Sheep kick! We must respond not in kicking back, but in love.
3. Love is the most oft repeated command in the New Testament.
 - a) The New Testament commands us to love. Over 50 times we are told to love.

- b) Marinate everything you do in love.
- 4. Loving people is a tough:
 - a) 1,500 pastors leaves the ministry every month in America.
 - b) Over 50% of pastors would leave the ministry if they could find another way to support their families.
 - c) Over 50% of pastors' wives feel that their husbands entering the ministry was the most destructive thing that ever happened to their families.
 - d) 71% of pastors stated that they were burnt out and they battled depression and fatigue on a weekly or daily basis.
 - e) Only 1 out of 10 ministers will retire as a minister.
- 5. The ministry we are in has a its pitfalls, and we must take care of our own souls if we are going to lead others in love.

B. Leaders set the example

- 1. Elders lead, sheep follow.
- 2. Elders have the influence to create a loving atmosphere.
- 3. Elders are to be examples in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (I Tim. 4:12).
- 4. "Love is the life-breath of the church."

Connecting Love and Leadership

Detailed Outline

Part 2 of 6

II. Connecting Love and Leadership

A. Board elder tendencies

1. Sits on committees
2. Attends meetings
3. Makes decisions
4. Implements plans
5. Manages bookkeeping
6. Spends limited time with people

B. Shepherd elder tendencies

1. Loves being with people
2. Available
3. Has a deep sense of responsibility for the sheep
4. Hospitable, visits people in hospital, in the home
5. Knows the state of each sheep
6. Weeps with those who weep, rejoices with those who rejoice
7. Approachable, down to earth, transparent
8. Good people skills

C. Why is this so important a distinction?

1. The world we live in is starved for love; it desires men who are loving, kind, and approachable.
2. People are going to go where they feel loved, whether to us or to the cults.
3. People vote with their feet: they will go somewhere where they are loved.
4. A church can survive without very good preaching, but it can't survive long without love, and without loving leaders.
5. If you minister in love, you can never be considered a failure.
6. We are never more like God than when we are loving difficult people.

D. The results of leading with love

1. This pleases God.
2. Conflict will diminish when we lead with love.
3. Divisions will diminish. Only 2% of church divisions are due to doctrine. Most division results from the fact that we cannot get along with each other.

III. Love: The More Excellent Way (I Cor. 13:1-3)

And I will show you a still more excellent way. (1 Cor. 12:31b)

- A. Even Paul knew that with all his gifting, if he did not minister in love, it would all be in vain. There is something more important than supernatural gifts, being a great orator, or performing in front of your brothers and sisters.**
- B. Jesus told us to love others like he loved us, by laying down his life for the sheep.**

"There's no use in trying to do church work without love. A doctor, a lawyer may do good work without love, but God's work cannot be done without love." D.L. Moody

- C. Imagine the Lord of the universe washing the disciples' feet. Even more so, he showed his love to us by dying for us.**

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:16)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

- D. Without love, even heavenly language sounds annoying (v. 1).**

1. Teaching without love is annoying.
2. Talent without love is annoying.
3. Zeal without love is annoying.
4. Skill without love is annoying.
5. Strategy and vision without love are annoying.

The More Excellent Way

Detailed Outline

Part 3 of 6

IV. Love: The More Excellent Way (cont.)

B. Without love, knowing it all helps no one (1 Cor. 13:2).

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. (1 Cor. 13:2 ESV)

1. The pride of “rightness”
 - a) Have you ever met the kind of man who has all the answers?
 - b) They are a walking Bible dictionary.
 - c) This is particularly common among Christians.
 - d) We like to flout our Bible knowledge. We become inflated because we have some Bible knowledge under our wings, and we like to let people know we have that knowledge.
2. Doctrinal or ministry idolatry
 - a) We sometimes make an idol out of doctrinal accuracy.
 - b) I’m a doctrinal guy, don’t get me wrong. Doctrine is important.
 - c) But, when we make it our idol, people can tell that we are really in it for building up a reputation for ourselves, and not necessarily for loving people.
 - d) How do we know when we or our churches get to this point?
 - 1) When we use people to further our agenda and pad our resume instead of loving them.
 - 2) When we display our intellectual or theological superiority to validate our significance.
 - 3) When we belittle others: “Can you believe what that church down the road believes?!” God still loves them even though they might not agree with our theology. We don’t want to inflate our egos by the knowledge that we know.
 - 4) When we tell people we went to such-and-such seminary, and we know Hebrew and Greek and Latin. We don’t want to do that.
 - e) We easily become arrogant and puffed up with our own self-importance.

“Too often Christians are concerned about hidden truth, but indifferent about loving difficult people.” - Dr. George Sweeting, former president of Moody Bible Institute

“Knowledge without love inflates the ego and deceives the mind.” Alex Strauch
3. Paul has a better way
 - a) You know what kind of classroom you want to be in—where the teacher is loving, kind, patient with your questions.
 - b) You don’t want someone who is trying to impress you.

- c) Leaders must be loving, humble, even in our teaching. Because when we don't, then we contradict the very message we proclaim.

"No substitute exists for a teacher's love for his students. Teaching is far more than getting across content. It also calls for communicating a genuine personal interest and love for each student." - Dr. Roy Zuck, Dallas Theological Seminary

- d) We are not there as teachers just to get across content. We can use a tape for that.
- e) Love makes us servants of those we teach. You are not the "big dog" on the block. You are a servant.
- f) Only the apostles had the authority to say, "Do this because I say so." But we don't have that kind of authority. As elders we should never say, "Do this because I am an elder and I say so." We can appeal from the Scripture in a very loving way.
- g) *How* we teach can be as important as *what* we teach. We want to be tender and loving.

"Tenderness will win hearts so hardened that nothing else could move them. Truth spoken in love goes directly to the heart of the hearer and calls forth a kind response. It overcomes prejudices and hardness, and it melts and wins where the most logical argument, the most terrible warning and the severest threatening will produce no more impression than the falling of dew upon a block of granite." - Wilson T. Hogg, first president of Greenville College

"Sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness." (Prov. 16:21b)

- 4. We don't want to have an idolatry that is as clear as ice, and twice as cold. We want to be warm and kind. It is a lot easier to be orthodox than loving.

"We must ask, do I fight merely for doctrinal faithfulness? This is like the wife who never sleeps with anyone else, but never shows love to her own husband. Is that a sufficient relationship in marriage? No, ten thousand times no. Yet if I am a Christian who speaks and acts for doctrinal faithfulness but do not show love to my divine bridegroom, I'm in the same place as such a wife. What God wants from us is not only doctrinal faithfulness, but our love day by day. Not in theory, mind you, but in practice." - Francis Schaeffer

C. Without love, risk-taking faith is worthless (v. 2b).

- 1. Can you imagine having the faith to move mountains? Paul could have really impressed the Corinthians with that one. He would have been a powerhouse, a spiritual risk taker, a virtual George Mueller known by all. He's got all this faith.
- 2. As good as that is, if you do not have love, it doesn't matter. You are a bunch of noise.
- 3. But, when we combine that great faith with love, then we honor God and we serve our fellow man.
- 4. Faith with love is the more excellent way.

D. Without love, giving all one's money to the poor is unprofitable (v. 3a).

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Cor. 13:3)

1. Paul next considers giving away all his worldly possessions, his home, his property, his furnishings, his savings. Surely this is the ultimate action, right? No, as good as that is,
2. Some people put money in the offering box, doing it to impress people. Ananias and Sapphira did that, didn't they? (Acts 5:1-11).
3. The trumpet-blowing Pharisees (Matt. 6:1-5) gave to receive praise from other people. Their love was hypocritical.

E. Without love the ultimate sacrifice of one's life is pointless (v. 3b).

1. Paul envisions himself as the ultimate hero of the faith. He's going to lay down his life—wouldn't that impress the Corinthians?
2. Even doing that, Paul says, without mixing it with love for God and love for people, is zero!

Conclusion

1. Can you imagine as Paul's letter is read in the Corinthian assembly, what they were thinking? Paul's teaching was so in conflict with what they were practicing on the ground, I would like to have been a fly on the wall to see what they were thinking when Paul's letter was read.
2. All their pride and miraculous gifts were nothing without love.
3. We can have all this gifting, but if it is not mixed with love we are nothing, like a bunch of noise.

Character is Everything

Detailed Outline

Part 4 of 6

V. The Character and Behavior of a Loving Leader

Love is patient and kind . . . (1 Cor. 13:4a ESV)

Introduction

1. In Christianity, character is everything.
 - a) That should be true in all of our life, but especially in our public image as a Christian. Never has this been more needed for our leaders than in this day and age.
 - b) We need role models, men who love their wives, love their children, love their God, and are servants in their local church.
2. Too often leaders across America and around the world have a tendency to live far below our high calling.
 - a) Our integrity needs to precede our communication.
 - b) If people observe us in our local congregation, they know if we are the real deal. Then can tell if we are winging it. They can usually tell if our private world doesn't correspond to our public world. So when we get up here to speak on a given topic, they are thinking, "Why don't you put that into practice in your own life?"
 - c) Credibility is very important for a Christian leader.
 - d) It is not uncommon for leaders to have a gap between their public and private life.
 - e) Sometimes we begin to feel discouraged. Sometimes we begin to feel empty inside.
3. We need to feed our souls. Elders need to be self-feeders. You can't be dependent upon sermonettes here and there on the radio.
 - a) Sometimes, all of us going through desert times. Some days we are empty, dry.
 - b) Add to that our own insecurities. Many of us are aware of our brokenness.
 - c) Add also our struggle with our own personal sins.
 - d) You can see then that with all these things coming at us, it can be difficult for us to "lead with love."
 - e) That is why it is so important that we work on our character and our private life.
 - f) God is not scandalized by our depravity. A mature Christian deals with his sins. We want to close that gap between our private life and our public life.
 - g) The great enemy of an elder is the sinful desire to love yourself.
 - h) Yet, God still wants to use us.

4. The study of 1 & 2 Corinthians is a study of tact and diplomacy on how a leader (i.e. Paul) handled difficult situations.
 - a) Paul is going to now (in 1 Corinthians 13) describe 15 positive and negative aspects of love.
 - b) These describe the Lord Jesus, so he is a model for us as loving leaders.

*“... whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”
(1 John 2:6)*
 - c) Jesus didn’t go around beating the sheep. He was kind, gentle, patient. These qualities should define every area of our lives.

A. Love is patient (v. 4).

1. Jesus was patient.
2. Patience forms bookends for this section: verses 4 and 7. The idea is longsuffering, especially when under attack. We shouldn’t have a knee-jerk reaction of anger.
3. Isn’t the Lord patient with us? He loves, forgives, comes alongside of us.
4. Church work is slow work. We as elders want to get things done quickly. But we need to be patient—even when people assail us, criticize us, don’t like our plans for the church.
5. In every church, there are different kinds of people. As elders we tend to be self-motivated, and we think that everybody’s got to be like us. We need to be patient with people who are:
 - a) slow to learn
 - b) resist change
 - c) weak in the faith
 - d) quick to complain
 - e) forgetful of their responsibilities

“And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.” (1 Thess 5:14 emphasis added)

“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” (2 Tim 4:2 emphasis added)

6. Paul didn’t cut people off, become vindictive. And elder doesn’t do that. An elder has diplomacy.

B. Love is kind (v. 4).

“You can no more have love without kindness, than you can have springtime without flowers.” - William Graham Scroggie

1. Kindness is a readiness to do good, help, relieve burdens. You are looking for people who are suffering, have needs—young people, parents struggling—people who need your sympathy.
2. It has been said, “Kindness is love in work-clothes.”
3. Leaders are kind even to people who criticize them.
4. Leadership without kindness is a disaster.

C. Practical ideas:

1. Send a card, not just an email.
2. Pick up the phone, have them over, open your home.
3. Have a readiness to help with a burden.
4. Use a caring voice, a touch on the arm, a loving gesture, a simple expression of interest.
5. Visit them.
6. Remember that the way of kindness is the more excellent way.

Love Promotes Others

Detailed Outline

Part 5 of 6

VI. The Character and Behavior of a Loving Leader (cont.)

"... love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant" (1 Cor. 13:4b ESV)

Introduction

1. About 3 ½ years after leaving Corinth, Paul had to write back to address numerous sins in the church, and he is compelled to take a rather negative track describing eight character qualities that are inconsistent with love, in the chapter of 1 Corinthians 13.
2. These eight qualities all betray a sinful lack of love that divided the church at Corinth.
3. Some of the issues in the Corinthian church: envy, boasting, rudeness, arrogance, self-seeking, etc.
4. Paul's list serves as an objective standard to correct our selfish behaviors and guide us in "the more excellent way."

C. Love does not envy (v. 4).

1. Envy divides countless churches (1 Cor. 3:3).
 - a) It happens among missionaries, elders, everyone.
 - b) Jealousy divided the church at Corinth.

"... For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?" (1 Cor. 3:3b)
 - c) This is not the way a faith family ought to operate.
 - d) Envy makes one resentful of others' stuff. We covet other peoples' gifts, gifting.
 - 1) "He preaches better."
 - 2) "He's a better elder than I am."
 - 3) "He leads more people to the Lord."
 - 4) "People come to that other elder and don't come to me."
 - e) Envy is suspicious of another person's popularity.
 - f) None of us are immune to petty, self-centered envy, if we are honest.
2. How do we know when envy is a problem?
 - a) When elders eliminate from the church someone who is more gifted than they are.
 - b) When your church is envious of other churches that are growing more rapidly.
 - c) When as a missionary you are envious when other missionaries are better supported, more fruitful.
 - d) Bible study leaders: "Why are there 10 people in that cell group, but only 3 in mine?"
 - e) Musicians can envy others who sing, play more often, receive more applause.

- f) Elders can envy other elders who shine more in leadership abilities and knowledge.
- 3. Paul says, "Work together without envy."
 - a) Focus on how God has gifted you. Not everyone is a shiny preacher, upfront person.
 - b) Some are behind-the-scenes kind of people. God sees those people and that service as equally important as the ones up front. It's just like the human body: all the parts are necessary.
 - c) Consciously rejoice with those who rejoice. Rejoice over how God is using other people. Fight the natural tendency to ask, "Why not me?"
 - d) When someone gets invited to speak at a conference, we don't envy them, we rejoice. That's what a mature leader does.
 - e) So when the sin of envy arises in our heart, we don't coddle it, we deal with it as sin.

D. Love does not boast (v. 4).

- 1. Boasting is a sinful preoccupation with oneself.
 - a) Braggarts crave attention, want praise for their successes and for their suffering.
 - b) Some people wear busyness as a badge for praise.
- 2. We must guard against building monuments to ourselves and against "significance obsession."
 - a) Being preoccupied with our own advancement, defending our own importance.
 - b) Paul comes along and says, "That's not what love is."
 - c) What makes the situation even more severe, is that we serve on boards with men who are struggling with the same thing.
 - d) Remember the trumpet-blowing Pharisees. They were religious show-offs.
- 3. The Corinthians were boastful.
 - a) It was all about who was their favorite speaker, who spoke in tongues better, stepping on each other at the Lord's Supper, etc.
 - b) This is not how the church should function.

"Boasting is always an advertisement of poverty." - William Graham Scroggie
- 4. Christ is our life. Not the things we boast about ourselves. But him!

"When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Col. 3:4)

 - a) When you get to a party, one of the first things a man asks is, "What do you do, where do you work, what's your title?"
 - b) We are categorizing people when we do that.
- 5. Boasting mars a leader's character.
 - a) Boasting requires you to put others down, slander them, gossip in order to keep yourself up.

"Gossip gives a perverse delight in running down other people because it makes you feel good about yourself." - Jerry Bridges

- b) We want people to follow our example. Love promotes others. When you see someone in your assembly blessed, then you rejoice with them.
- 6. Those who are possessed with Christ's love delight in focusing the attention on others and pushing others to center stage.

E. Love is not arrogant (v. 4).

- 1. Arrogant self-importance is ugly and is contrary to the example of Christ.
- 2. As redeemed sinners, what do we have to boast about? Isn't it true that everything we have, whether it is gifting or whether you are a good teacher, does that all come from the Lord?
- 3. Illustration: One day William MacDonald was speaking at a conference and he was off stage. One of the conveners was introducing him. And he said, "And now Bill MacDonald will come." And there was another speaker speaking with him. The crowd started clapping to receive him. As Bill MacDonald was going through the door he stepped back to let the other less-known speaker go first. That is what it is like, putting others first, thinking of others.

"Those who think too much of themselves don't think enough." - Amy Carmichael

Conclusion:

- 1. Love is humble; love is modest.
- 2. Arrogance and boasting mar a leader's testimony.

Love in Shoe Leather

Detailed Outline

Part 6 of 6

VII. The Character and Behavior of a Loving Leader (cont.)

⁵ [Love is not] . . . rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (1 Cor 13:5-6)

F. Love is not rude (v. 5).

1. Rudeness in the local church
 - a) Rudeness has the idea of acting disgracefully. An elder must not be rude in dealing with others. This is true in dealing with others in the church, in elders' meetings, on the evangelism committee.
 - b) Examples:
 - 1) Inconsiderate talk
 - 2) Disregard for other people's time or moral conscience
 - 3) Someone has an idea at a committee meeting and you say, "That's no good. My idea is the best. And yours? Who would ever do that?" Then move on.
 - 4) Taking advantage of people
 - 5) Tactlessness
 - 6) Ignoring the contributions of others, only talking about our own contributions
 - 7) Riding rough-shod over other people in a meeting
 - 8) Discourtesy
 - 9) All these are evidence of a lack of love, and they have no place in the local church, and certainly not a place in leadership.
2. Rudeness in the Corinthian church
 - a) Lack of love was evident in the Corinthian church.
 - b) The rich didn't wait for the poor; they got their food out of the potluck of the local church.
 - c) They struggled with their so-called superior knowledge. "I'm smarter than you. My gift is better than yours."
 - d) They ran rough-shod over the weaker brother. "What do you mean I can't eat meat? Don't you understand it, didn't you hear what Paul said?" That's rudeness. They didn't wait for the teaching and theology of the new converts to catch up. So they were offensive.
 - e) Certain gifted speakers monopolized the time.
 - f) Loving people, on the other hand, are considerate of how their behavior affects others.

3. Rudeness in the life of a leader
 - a) Speakers who travel around the country are sensitive.
 - 1) In some assemblies you wear a tie.
 - 2) In some assemblies you don't talk about certain doctrines.
 - 3) You don't go in with the attitude, "I'm the Lord's free man, I'll do whatever I want." You could cause a split in the church.
 - 4) A loving person is aware of the proper social relationships and customs.
 - (a) *If you are dealing with Muslims, you do not touch Muslim women.*
 - (b) *In Missouri, we will give you a bear hug.*
 - (c) *You need to be conscious what do in these situations.*
 - 5) You have to have the proper conduct in dress and speech.
 - b) Love does not talk over others when they are talking.
 - c) When someone is talking about something very important, don't get up walk around, yawn, go to the bathroom. That's rude. You wouldn't want others to do that when you have something important to say.
 - d) Be respectful when we disagree. "I see your point. I'd like to hear more about that."

G. Love does not insist on its own way (v. 5).

1. None of us are immune to insisting on our own way.
 - a) Our ministry is important to us; we are passionate about it.
 - b) It's a big deal how the church progresses forward.
 - c) So when you bring five or six emotionally charged men who love the Lord and want to see their plan and assembly grow—we don't always agree.
2. Selfishness and the apostles
 - a) Remember James and John (Matthew 20:20–28).
 - b) They wanted the preeminent seats in the kingdom, and even enlisted their mother to help them get their way.
3. Selfishness and Christian leaders
 - a) We want to be the most well-known elder, the best speaker, the one people always call, the go-to elder.
 - b) What about the other fellow-elders?
 - c) Loving elders do not insist upon their own way.
4. Selfishness in Western society
 - a) We have the culture of "rugged individualism."
 - b) We tend to place ourselves in the center of the universe.
 - c) But, this doesn't work on an elder board.
 - d) If you have an elder and everything revolves around him, that's a red flag.
5. Selfishness in the Corinthian church
 - a) Corinthians insisted they were free to eat whatever they wanted.
 - b) In the process they were offending weak brothers. They didn't understand the concept of the servant role.

c) If we want to connect with people, then we need to love with leadership.

6. Remember, the great enemy of a shepherd is a sinful heart.

H. Love is not irritable (v. 5).

1. We are passionate about our work. We love the sheep; we love the Lord's work.

2. A remarkable thing about love is that it is not easily provoked to an emotional stage of anger.

3. There is always going to be plenty of fuel for irritation:

a) Offense, bitterness, resentment.

b) These things will come in a local church. We are all fallen sinners. There is certainly no perfect church.

c) Don't just leave your church when people disagree. 92% of church growth is simply people moving around!

4. A biblical qualification of an elder is that he not be "quick-tempered" (Titus 1:7).

a) Bible does not say, "Love does not get angry." Rather it says, "Love is not easily provoked."

b) Sometimes an elder does have to deal with difficult situations; sometimes things do irritate us and cause us to become angry. But we are not to become *quickly* angered.

"The heart of man is exceedingly prone to undue and sinful anger, being naturally full of pride and selfishness." - Jonathan Edwards.

c) But we don't stay there; we want to grow, we want to progress.

5. When leaders get angry, things get magnified, problems are exaggerated, miscommunications, misunderstandings all happen.

I. Love is not resentful (v. 5).

1. Loving leaders do not hold grudges.

2. Are there brothers you say hi to, but are on your "bad list"?

a) I know people who remember offenses ten or twenty years in the past.

b) Don't make a list of offenses committed against you. Get rid of your list.

c) Don't keep a file of insults.

d) Don't nurse old grudges.

3. Loving leaders do not seek revenge.

4. Loving leaders do not keep records of wrong.

J. Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing (v. 6).

"That a man rejoices in is a fair test of his character." - William Graham Scroggie

1. Loving people do not take delight when other churches fail through conflict.

a) When people have left your church, and then suffer misfortune, do we think "Well, they shouldn't have left." Inside are we semi-rejoicing? That is part of being fallen.

- b) When we hear of an earthquake in a foreign country, and we say, “They should know. You know they are all homosexuals over there.” But, God loves those people. We don’t know why that earthquake happened.
- c) We don’t rejoice when we hear a public announcement of a leader who has fallen into sin. “I knew it, ha, ha.” We should rather weep and be humbled.

“To be glad when evil prevails or to rejoice in the misfortunes of others is indicative of great moral degradation.” - William Graham Scroggie

- 2. Elders should grieve over the misfortune of others.

K. Love rejoices with the truth (v. 6).

- 1. Caring leaders rejoice when others succeed, you rejoice with them
- 2. The tender heart of Paul rejoiced at the good things that were happening in Corinth, even though he had to deal with much of the difficulty.

Conclusion: Caring leaders live according to the “more perfect way” of love.