

Intro- Merry Christmas.

What do we need in this life to be fulfilled? To be whole? History shows us we are in pursuit of this. All major religions and philosophies promise or give this hope; one day you can be whole or complete. Which shows in and of itself, when we simply slow down long enough to be honest, we are not currently fulfilled.

Begs the question, Can we be fulfilled? Yes and no and yes.

[Please turn to 1 Corinthians 13, pg. 959 in Pew Bibles](#)

Our advent series is titled [HERE & NEAR](#). Hope, Peace, Joy & today we talk about love.

1. What is biblical love?
2. How is love here?
3. How is love near?
4. How do we receive this love?
5. How does this change your life? (Application)

Context

Work together, build up, so that they can be effective witness to others¹ but they were taking this spiritual experience to the extreme particularly when it came to gifts of the Spirit in their gathering. In other words, they were making it about them and needed a little course correction.

What do I mean by “gifts of the Spirit”? This is step one that goes to answering our question, What do we need in this life to be fulfilled?

[What is biblical love? God's love for us](#)

¹ ESV Study Bible, ESV.ORG, Theme- 1 Corinthians

Apostle Paul came to Corinth with a message of good news. He writes in the beginning of 1 Corinthians,
And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. **For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified...** so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

GOSPEL

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, **so that we might live through him.** 1 John 4:9

What is biblical love? God's love for us. Our love for God

This is how we receive the spirit. The Spirit then gives us gifts so that we can encourage others in the love of God and we are free to love others freely.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

What is biblical love? God's love for us. Our love for God and for others.

READ 1 Cor. 12:7 & 25-27.

Sounds good right? Can we be fulfilled? Yes, and yet, no. It turns out, we still have to deal with sinful behaviors which puts a wrench in the works to this otherwise beautiful story. Why? **Already, but not yet**
We already have hope, joy, peace, and love from God.

This is how love is HERE. We are loved by God and have been set free to love others! So yes, we can be fulfilled, BUT, this love is not fully realized. We are now pilgrims in this land, sharing this love to all who will hear, but it's messy. So yes and no... Just like we see in Corinth. The pull is to focus on yourself, yet the love we have IS FOR others.

The encouragement of scripture is to live as you are; fully loved by God so you can love others. We don't run from the mess, we enter into it KNOWING what we have! And Paul encourages the Corinth Church and us, as a church, the way to live into this isn't to focus on a heightened spiritual experience. (**Read 12:31b**).

Love is not just a part of it, it's foundational.

Read Vs. 1-3 and exposit.

So what does love look like? This crazy love of God for us so that we can love others? Often we interpret scripture as commands, when it is simply telling truths. Much of scripture is descriptive, because we often don't know what the christian life looks like, so Paul describes biblical love.

Read vs. 4-8a. God's love for you, our love for others.

[What is biblical love? God's love for us. Our love for God and for others.](#)

Can we be fulfilled? Yes Because Christ died to show us and give us the love of God. No, because we are not in heaven yet, but yes, because HE IS COMING AGAIN!

How is love near? Because Christ is coming again.

Read vs. 8-13

What does this mean for you? 1 cor 14:1a

-Unbeliever. Find love by believing in Christ

**-Believer? Remember God's love for you through Jesus,
and why you're here!**

ADVENT

**Call: We remember our need for a Savior who will save us
from our sins, and bring the love of God into our lives.**

Response: God shows his love for us in that while we were still
sinners, Christ died for us.

**Call: We remember that Christ demonstrated self-giving
love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time
for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It
is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most
precious gift. As God is love, we are also to love.**

Response: I give you a new commandment, that you love one
another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one
another.

**Call: As we remember Christ's birth, and anticipate Christ's
Glorious return, may God fill our hearts with His love. {Light
Candle}**

**CALL: As the candle is lit we are reminded of a glorious
truth.**

All: God is Love