**First, Love the Church Like Jesus Does**

1. When Slow Down = To Dig Down = Work Harder To Keep Broader Context In Mind
2. **(1)** ***Told Us*** = In Light ***of Mercies*** of God ***Described In*** Rom 1-11 = ***Only*** Rational—Spiritual ***Response***
   1. To Offer ***Selves*** To God = ***Living*** Sacrifices = Surrender ***Selves*** = Heart & Mind = Live ***For God*** Not ***Selves***
3. **(2)** Gives ***Picture*** of Consecration = ***Negatively*** = No ***Longer*** Conformed ***To World*** = Pressed ***Into*** Its Mold
   1. ***Positively*** = Be Transformed—***Changed***! 🡪 ***God*** Says = ***This*** Happens = **BY** ***Renewal*** of Our Minds
4. **(3)** Paul ***Immediately*** Turns ***To Life*** of Church = ***To Our*** Attitude—***Shared Life*** As Body—***Heart*** of Xpian Love
5. ***To Be*** Jesus’ ***Disciple*** = You & I ***Must*** Think ***@*** Church ***Way*** Jesus ***Does*** = Be ***Conformed*** To Xp In Way Think
6. So ***Key*** Application of ***Offering*** Selves ***To God*** In Worship = ***Offer*** ***Selves*** In Genuine ***Love*** To God’s People
   1. Paul Illustrates & Applies ***This*** In 3-8 = By Showing = ***God’s People*** = 1 Body ***In Xp*** = Gifted ***To Serve***
   2. ***Calls*** To Use ***Gifts*** To Practically & Sacrificially ***Serve*** Xp & Each Other = ***In Life*** of Jesus’s Body = ***Church***
   3. Love & Worship ***of God*** = Made Manifest = ***Becomes*** Observable & Concrete = ***In Love*** For One Another
   4. John 13:35—"*By this all people will know that you are my disciples,* ***if*** *you have love for one another*.”
7. Now Paul Says = This ***Love*** = Which Is ***To Be*** Attitude & Atmosphere ***of Church*** = Must Be ***Genuine***

**Second, Love Is the Heartbeat of the Body (9-10)**

1. God Has ***Rich*** Vocabulary ***of Love*** = Bible ***Uses*** 4 Words = ***For Love*** = 3 Are Used ***In These*** 2 Verses
2. Only ***Word*** Not ***Used*** = Eros = ***Romantic—Sexual*** Love = ***Other*** 3 Words = ***Agape***—Storge—Philia
   1. **(9)** Agape = ***Refers*** To God’s ***Divine*** = Unconditional ***Love*** = Not ***Love*** of Attraction = ***Moral*** Posture
      1. Everlasting & Steadfast = ***Only*** NT ***Word*** Used ***To Describe*** Love = ***In*** ***Connection*** W/ God
   2. **(10)** Storge = ***Strong***—Devoted ***Love*** W/In ***Family*** = Mutual ***Love*** = Parent & Child—Wives & Husbands
   3. **(10)** Philia = ***Brotherly*** Love = ***Friendship*** = Jonathan & David 🡪 Frodo & Sam = Not Sexual—Not
3. **(9)** ***Let Your*** Love—Agape ***Be Genuine*** = Governing ***Love*** In Life ***of Church*** = God’s ***Love*** = Divine ***Love***
   1. ***Our*** Agape ***Love*** = Must Be ***Genuine*** = Hypocrites = ***Actor*** In Play = Literally = Not-***Hypocritical***
   2. Not ***Pretend*** = To Love ***Xp’s Church*** = Fruit ***of Spirit*** =Agape = ***Let*** ***Love*** Be Genuine ***Work*** of HS ***In Life***
   3. 1 Pet. 1:22-23—"*Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a* ***sincere brotherly love****, love* [Agape] *one another* ***earnestly*** [Fervently] ***from a pure heart****, since you have been born again*”
   4. Born Again = Purifies ***Souls*** For ***Sincere*** Un-Hypocrical ***Brotherly*** Love = ***Fervent*** Pure ***Agape*** Love
   5. Let ***Your*** Agape ***Love*** For ***Church*** Be W/Out ***Hypocrisy*** = From Pure Heart = Unconditional—Steadfast
4. Paul Never ***Let’s*** Love = ***Hang*** Vaguely ***In Air =*** Concrete = **(9)** “*Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good”*
   1. Think @ That = To Genuinely ***Love*** Like ***God*** Does = ***Commit*** To Hate ***What*** God ***Hates*** = Cling ***Good***
   2. So What ***Does*** This ***Mean*** = Church ***Together*** = Individually & Corporately = ***Ruthlessly*** Repent ***of Sin***
   3. Eph. 4:25-32—“*Speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear*. *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”* = Abhor & Cling
   4. Gal. 5:14-15—"*The whole law is fulfilled in one word*: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*." *But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another*.”
5. Fulfill ***Whole*** Law ***When*** Agape ***Our Neighbor*** = Juxtaposed = ***Biting***—Devouring—Consuming ***Each Other***
   1. ***Striking***—Not ***Surprising*** = How Much Paul Talks To Church @ Slander—Gossip—Anger—Division
   2. How Often ***Reminds*** God’s People = ***To Be*** Truthful—Kind—Compassionate—Patient—Forgiving
   3. ***How*** Often—***So Many*** Ways =***Reminds*** Hate ***What*** Is Evil =***Love*** What Is ***Good*** = To Really ***Love*** Ea Other
6. **(10)** On Top ***of Agape*** = Paul ***Adds*** 2 More ***Compound*** Words = ***For Love*** = Philo-Storge***—***Philadelphia
   1. ***Have*** Philo-Storge = ***Familial*** Love & Devotion—***Love*** One Another ***W/ Philadelphia*** = Brotherly ***Love***
   2. Boice ( I Think)—“*In respect to the love of our Christian brothers and sisters, we are to be marked by a devotion that is characteristic of a loving, close-knit, and mutually supportive family*”
7. **(10)** Outdo ***Others***—Lead ***Way***= Showing ***Honor*** To One Another = Each Trying To Be Example For Others
   1. Preferring Ea Other =Phil. 2 = ***Esteem*** More Highly Than—Before Self = Look Out For Other’s Above Self
8. Using ***All*** 3 Words—***Combining*** = Agape—Philia—Storge = ***Profound*** Call ***To Love*** Ea Other ***In Every Way***
   1. ***Concretely*** Manifested = ***By Hating*** Evil & Clinging ***To What*** Good = ***Ruthless*** Repentance = ***Others*** First

**Finally, We Love Because He First Loved Us**

1. Love ***= Chief*** Mark ***Of*** ***Follower*** of Jesus = ***Love*** For His Church = ***What*** Look ***Like*** = Rom. 12:3-8
   1. 1 Cor. 13 = Paul Says All Other Xpian Graces = Bet W/Out Love = We Are Nothing = Meaningless
   2. Why? = ***Bec***/ Love = 1st Fruit ***of Spirit*** = Why Is Love First Fruit? = ***Bec***/ God Is Love!
   3. 1 John 3:10—"*By this it is evident who are the* ***children of God****, and who are the* ***children of the devil****: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother*.”
   4. 1 John 4:7-8—"*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and* ***whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*** *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love*.”
   5. Being Born of God—Baptized By HS = Filled Fruit of HS = Love For One Another 🡪 No Love = Not Know
2. Never Let Love ***Become*** Mushy—Vague ***Notion*** In Head= Love Abhors Evil—Clings Good =Patient—Forgives
   1. When Think @—Talk @ Love = Must Always Think & Talk @ What Love Does—Does Not Do
   2. 1 Cor. 13:4-8—"*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” =* These Are Things = You & I Must Cling To *=* Love What Is Good = In How Treat Other People
3. 1 John 4:19—"*We love because he first loved us*” = We Agape The Church = Bec/ Father First Agaped Us
   1. **(5:8)**—"*God shows his* [Agape] *love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*.”
   2. **(8:39)**—Nothing "*will be able to separate us from the* [Agape] *love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”
   3. Rom. 1:7—"*To all those in Rome who are* [Agapetoi] *Beloved—loved by God and called to be saints*”
   4. 1 John 4:10-11—"*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved* [Agapetoi]*, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*”
   5. **(5:5)**—"*God's* [Agape] *love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us”🡪* Apart From Being Loved =Do Nothing = Having God-Like Love of God Poured Into Hearts By HS
4. ***We*** Manifest ***Love*** of God ***Poured Out*** In Our Hears ***= Purifying*** Our Souls = When Love Each Other Well
   1. John 15:9-13—"*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you…."This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends*.” = We Imitate Him—We Obey Him = Honor & Worship Him = When Love W/ His Love
5. We Live In World = Polarized & In Pain = ***We Are*** Biting & Devouring ***One Another*** = Wonder = ***Any*** Hope?
   1. So Much of Church’s ***Presence*** = Negative = ***Scandals*** In Headlines—***Pastor-Activist*** Making Up ***Stories***
   2. Churches & Xpians ***Fighting***—Splitting ***Over*** Covid Views & Political ***Convictions*** = Biting & Devouring
   3. 1 John 4:9—"*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.*” = This = Hope of World = Gospel—Good News World Needs
   4. We Are Ambassadors of Xp 🡪 He Entrusted To Us = Sacred Calling =Ministers of Peace & Reconciliation
   5. Love & Worship ***of God*** = Made Manifest = ***Becomes*** Observable & Concrete = ***In Love*** For One Another
6. When Hate What Is Evil—Cling To Good = Genuinely—Humbly—Practically
   1. Love Each Other W/ Every Kind of Love