

A Glorifying Community of Faith

I Peter 4:7-11

Introduction: St. John Church is a community of faith that should do everything for the glory of God.

I. "love each other deeply" (v.8)

A. Why love?

- 1. love and you will obey all the other commandments.**
- 2. love should be the basis for all we do here at St. John.**

B. Where does this love come from?

- 1. love comes through purification which comes through obeying the scriptures. (I Peter 1:22)**
- 2. God's Word is absolute truth!**

C. love covers a multitude of sins

- 1. when someone loves you it is easier to forgive them.**
- 2. The love Christ had and has for us caused Him to die for us.**

II. "offer hospitality without grumbling" (v.9)

A. What is hospitality?

- 1. Webster - "the generous and cordial reception of guests"**
- 2. Eerdmans - We offer hospitality because, along with other reasons, it is how we do these things to Christ.**

B. With Grumbling

- 1. We have little problem being hospitable.**
- 2. We want to reserve the right to complain about it.**

III. "Use the gift he has received" (v.10)

A. Who is this speaking to?

- 1. All Christians have been gifted by the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. Jesus set the example (John 13) that we should all try to follow.**

B. the dispensing of God's grace

- 1. When we serve others they get a glimpse of God**
- 2. For some, we are the only Christ they will ever encounter.**

IV. "Speaking the very words of God" (v.11)

A. tearing down and building up.

- 1. I need to take this more seriously.**
- 2. Are the words we use building up, or tearing down the community.**
- 3. We should use our words to identify sin without condemning the sinner.**

V. Two reasons

A. To glorify God and His kingdom

- 1. We need Christ's redemption for ourselves.**
- 2. Once we have received that then its all about others.**

B. "The end of all things is near" (v.7)

- 1. No one, not even me, knows when the end will come.**
- 2. It is closer now than it was yesterday.**

Closing: To glorify God's kingdom we must; love one another deeply, show hospitality without grumbling, use your gift to serve others, and carefully choose your words.