

Study Aids
Discussion Questions
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 127

In this lesson we have seen two more matters of concern to the people of Corinth that are also pertinent to us – the topics of the Church as the Body of Christ, and how the Church is to reflect the love of Christ.

Questions:

What does the phrase, “the Body of Christ” mean to you? Have you ever considered yourself being such a part?

Do you ever think that you have no “special gifts” to contribute to the Church? The human body can function without certain minor parts, of course, but is it better if all the parts are present and functioning properly?

In the same way, can the Church function better if all of its members – even those who consider themselves insignificant – are contributing their energy and talents? Is it possible for you to think too little of yourself?

The new Lutheran Study Bible comments on chapter 13 as follows:

“faith, hope, and love are a summary of Christian virtues. “Faith” and “hope” are by nature imperfect, because they mature into “knowledge” when the thing believed in or hoped for is reached (when we get to heaven). Love does not turn into to something else but, when mature, remains love. . . . Faith and hope have to do only with God. But love has infinite offices outwardly toward humanity.”

“By so completely describing and advocating love’s divine qualities, Paul reveals the Corinthian’s immaturity. He sharply rebukes all noisy, clanging boasts of superiority. Yet, he alludes to the fact that the Father – who knows His children all too well – still loves them, reaches for them by His Word, and will embrace them eternally because of Christ, who delivered Himself up for us all.”