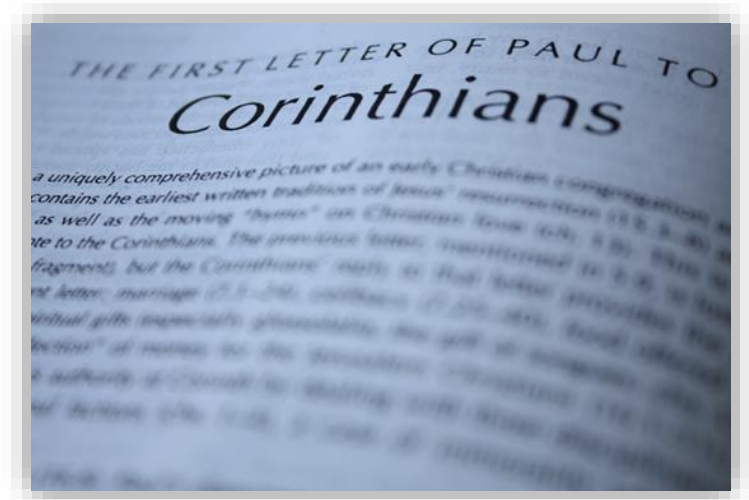


Personal Application and Conversations

1. Here's an easy question, what are three of your character qualities that you would put on a resume or job application if you were applying for a job at Walmart?
2. What do you think God wants you to take away from this message on the most excellent way?
3. By my counting, there are 15 characteristics of love listed in I Cor 13:4-7. Which of these did the Lord call to your attention as an area that needs some attention?
4. How have you seen some of these 15 characteristics embodied in people from our church body?
5. What do you think you really learned today about "the best gifts"?



The Best Gifts

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Pastor John Ploog

August 21, 2022



I heard someone comment this week that we are a divided nation and world. We are categorized by age, race, ethnicities, education, location, and by those who want to mine from us whatever we have that's worth something to them. Then, the person talking said it's all part of Satan's strategy to divide us. He quoted Jesus, warning Peter, "*Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith might not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.*" (Luke 22:31-32) In other words, Satan is sifting us...separating us from each other like wheat from the chaff. The church at Corinth was a divided church. Each one had gifts intended to build up the body. But their God-given gifts were being co-opted by Satan, to cause division. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul reminded them and us, there is a most excellent way for us to work together as the body of Christ.

Who's the _____? (12:31)

Greatness is driven by _____ (13:1—7)

Love never _____ (v. 8a)

Our knowledge/understanding is so _____ (vs. 8b-11)

But there will _____ a _____ (v. 12)

Three eternal gifts (v.13)