Rooted & Grounded In Love

Joshua Creel · Ephesians 4:11–16

INTRODUCTION

- What we're doing here is a manifestation of our love for God.
- I addressed the idea of that deceptively beautiful facade.
- What God wants for us among his people is to be able to be open and honest with each other, to be able to go to each other with our struggles.

1 Is It Possible for a Church to Have a Facade?

Revelation 2:2–4

- Is it possible for a congregation to have a facade that, oh, everything looks good and everything looks healthy, but well, maybe everything's not.
- I know your deeds and your toil and your perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men.
- But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
- The hearts and the love of each individual for Christ and for each other has waned. It's a deceptive facade.

2 The Dangers in the Programs Approach

- When I'm talking about programs, I'm not saying that programs can't be good.
- If I'm defining the spirituality and in fact the health of myself based on what programs my congregation is involved in, I could be deceiving myself.
- Oftentimes, programs they only utilize the efforts of a few.
- Programs are often measured by outward results, not inward growth.
- Programs come and go, and that's just the nature of what they are.
- Then programs may not address our greater needs.

3 God's Approach: Rooted and Grounded in Love

Ephesians 4:11–16; Ephesians 1:4–5; Ephesians 3:17

- For the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.
- Causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
- In love, he predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself.
- That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and it's you being rooted and grounded in love.
- In love is objective in the book of Ephesians. In love, God has done all this for you.
- Love him. With every fiber of your being, love him. And if you will love him with every fiber of your being, then you will also love his people because they belong to him too.

4 Love Utilizes All and Makes Programs Effective

Ephesians 4:16; Romans 1:14–17; 1 John 3:14

- All can love. And all are to love. And all are to turn that love into active participation and involvement and the growing of the body.
- That utilizes the efforts of all. Not a few. That achieves inward and outward results.
- Love never changes. That attitude and that disposition we're to have to God and then to each other, that's not going to change. That addresses every need.
- But they are useless. They are useless if I don't love others enough to share the gospel with them.
- We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren.
- But you see, if I don't love you, then everything else is just a program.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **But oh, how we ought to love him. The one who died for us. And our great God and Father who adopted us as children to him through his son. So love him. And in doing that, walk in love.**

MY NOTES