



The logo for Messy Church is centered on a white brick wall. It features the word "MESSY" in large, bold, black capital letters with a white outline. Below it, the word "church" is written in a white, lowercase, cursive script with a black outline. The text is surrounded by vibrant, colorful paint splashes in shades of blue, pink, purple, yellow, and orange, creating a messy and artistic background.

MESSY church



MESSY church

A STUDY OF 1ST CORINTHIANS

What is the overall thread of this letter?

What is the 'big idea' of this section?

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It addresses the reality that the church in Corinth, unfortunately, many times reflected more of the broken, sinful world than a transformed people (who are the object of God's sacrificial love and grace) in their everyday lives.

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It addresses the reality that the church in Corinth, unfortunately, many times reflected more of the broken, sinful world than a transformed people (who are the object of God's sacrificial love and grace) in their everyday lives.

What is the 'big idea' of this section?

The intentional and the intensive pursuit of love is the path that should dominate the life of a follower of Christ.

I Corinthians 13:1-13

- ¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all
knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but have not love,
I am nothing.
- ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,
but have not love,
I gain nothing.

The logo for 'Messy Church' is positioned at the top left. The word 'MESSY' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, while 'church' is in a white, cursive script font. The text is surrounded by vibrant, multi-colored paint splashes in shades of blue, yellow, red, and purple, which appear to be dripping down the side of the white brick wall background.

MESSY church

I Corinthians 13:1-13



12:31

But earnestly desire the higher gifts.
And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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Pursue love,
and earnestly desire the spiritual gift,
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Greek: dióko
to *aggressively* chase,
like a *hunter* pursuing a
catch;

earnestly desiring to
overtake or
apprehend.

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MESSY church

Love Defined

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Love = an intense feeling of deep affection.

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Love = a complex emotion characterized by deep affection, care, and commitment, often involving a desire for another person's happiness and well-being.

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- **Eros** (romantic, passionate love)
- **Phileo** (love between friends)
- **Storge** (familial love...*not used in the New Testament*)
- **Agape** (unconditional, self-sacrificing love)

Love Defined

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

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Love = The **holiness** of God married to the **mercy** of God.

Love = The perfect integration of **grace** and **truth**.

Love = A **covenantal commitment** to an **unconditional** pursuit of **valuing** others the way God **values** them.

Love Defined

Francis Schaeffer defined love not just as an emotion, but as
*'a practical, observable reality demonstrated through
actions that prioritize the well-being of others,
even at personal cost.'*

Love Described

- 4 Love is patient and kind;
love does not envy or boast;
it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
- 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing,
but rejoices with the truth.
- 7 Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends.

As for prophecies, they will pass away;
as for tongues, they will cease;
as for knowledge, it will pass away.

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child,
I reasoned like a child.

When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.
Now I know in part; then I shall know fully,
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A call to maturity!

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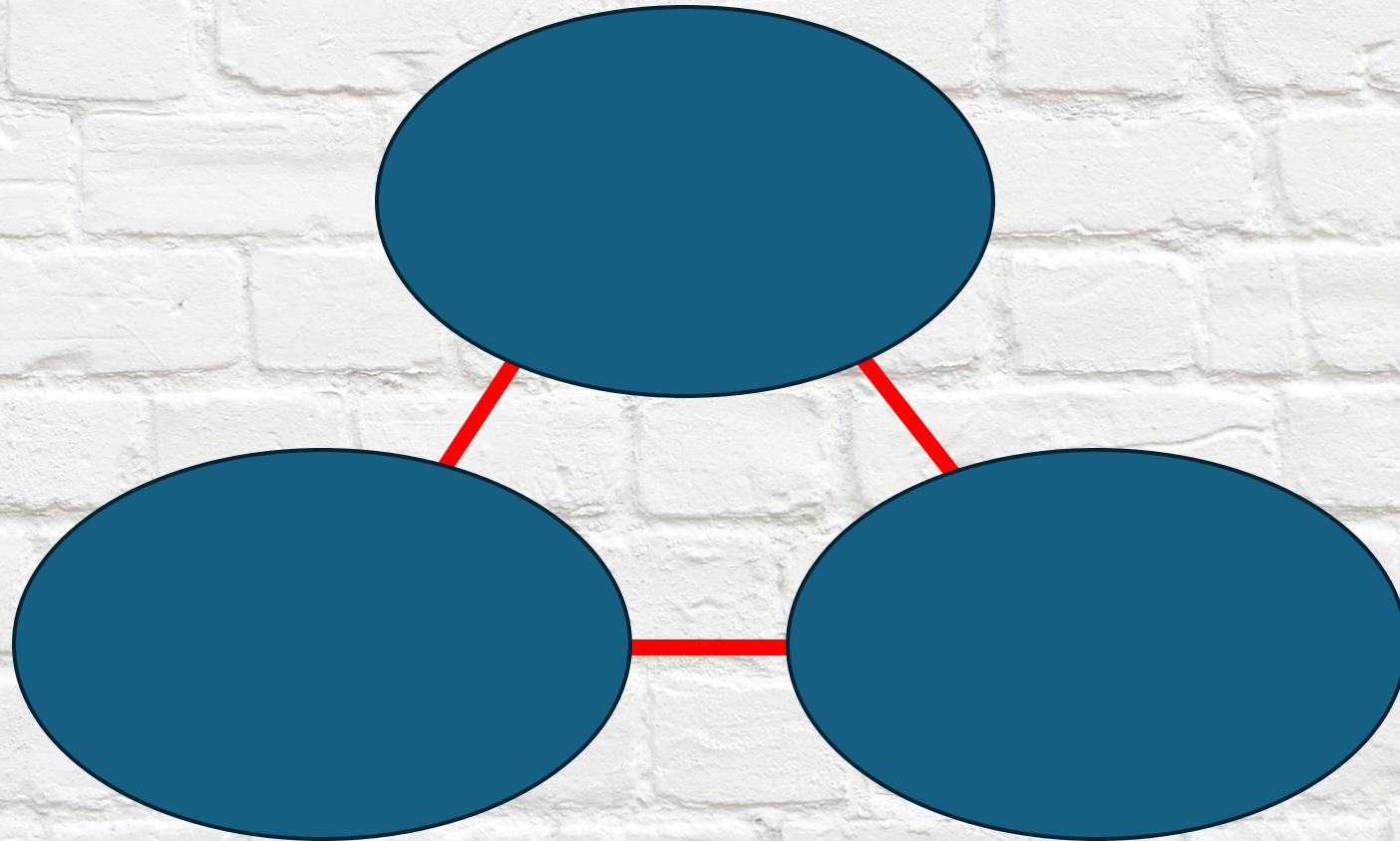
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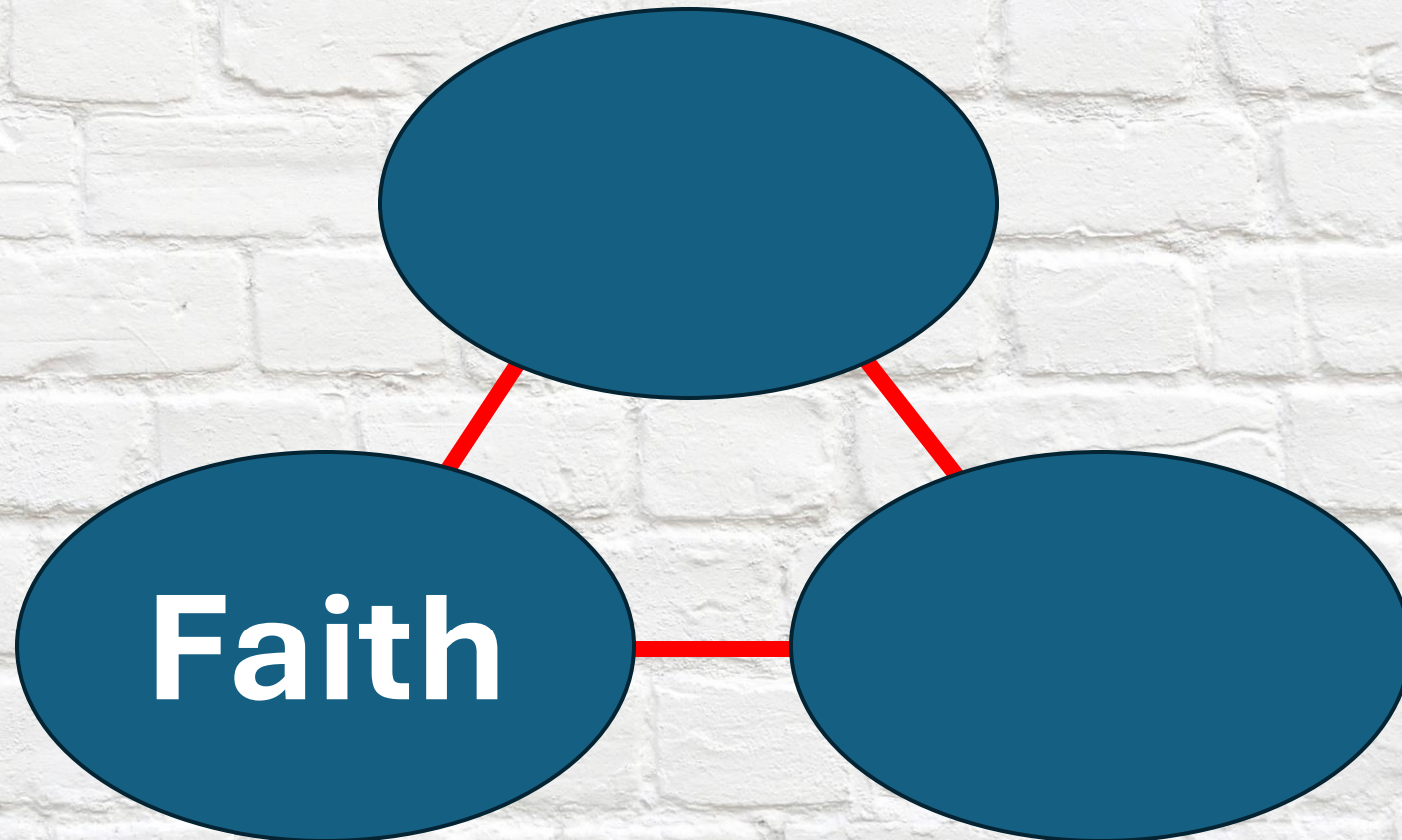
13

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.



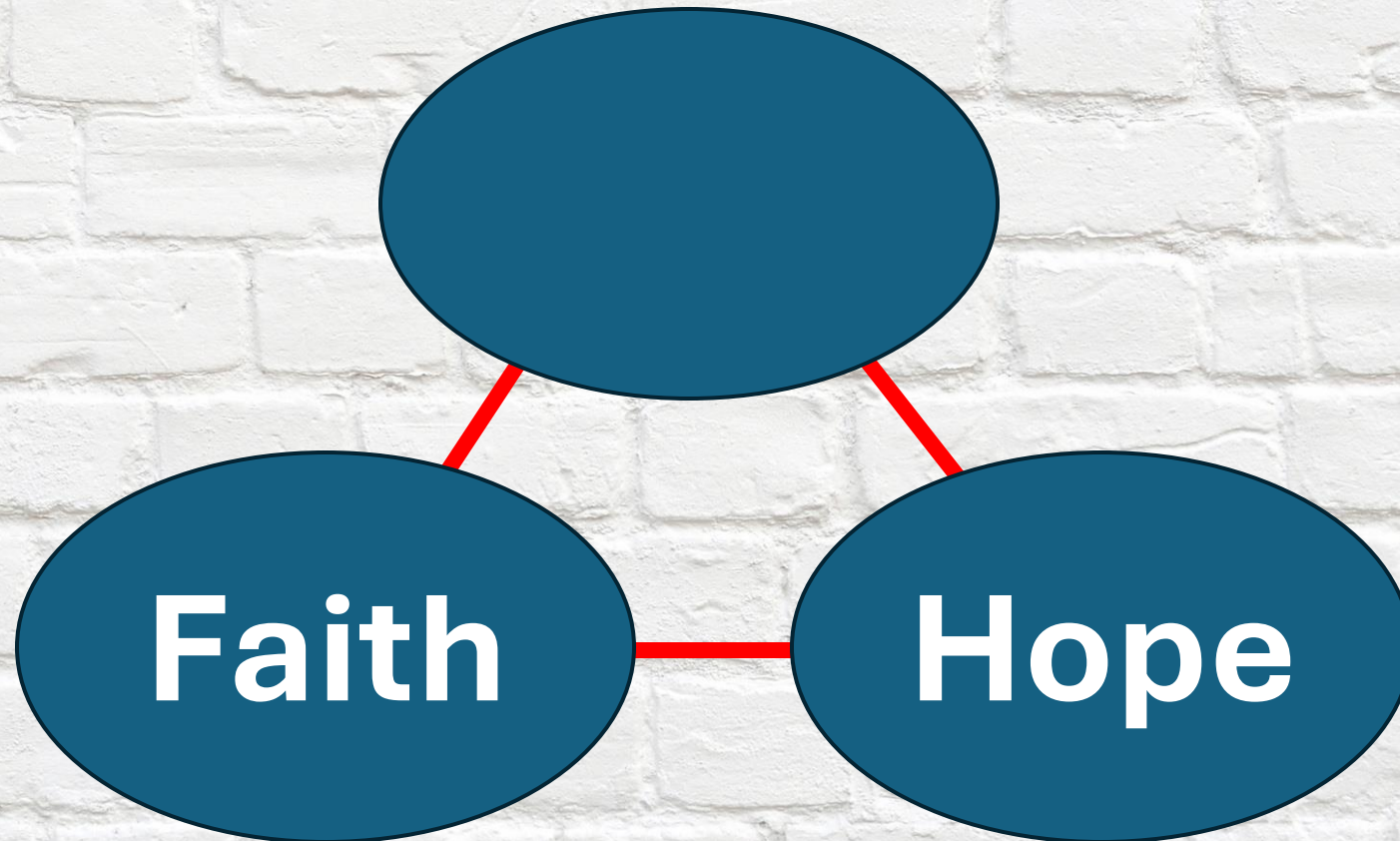
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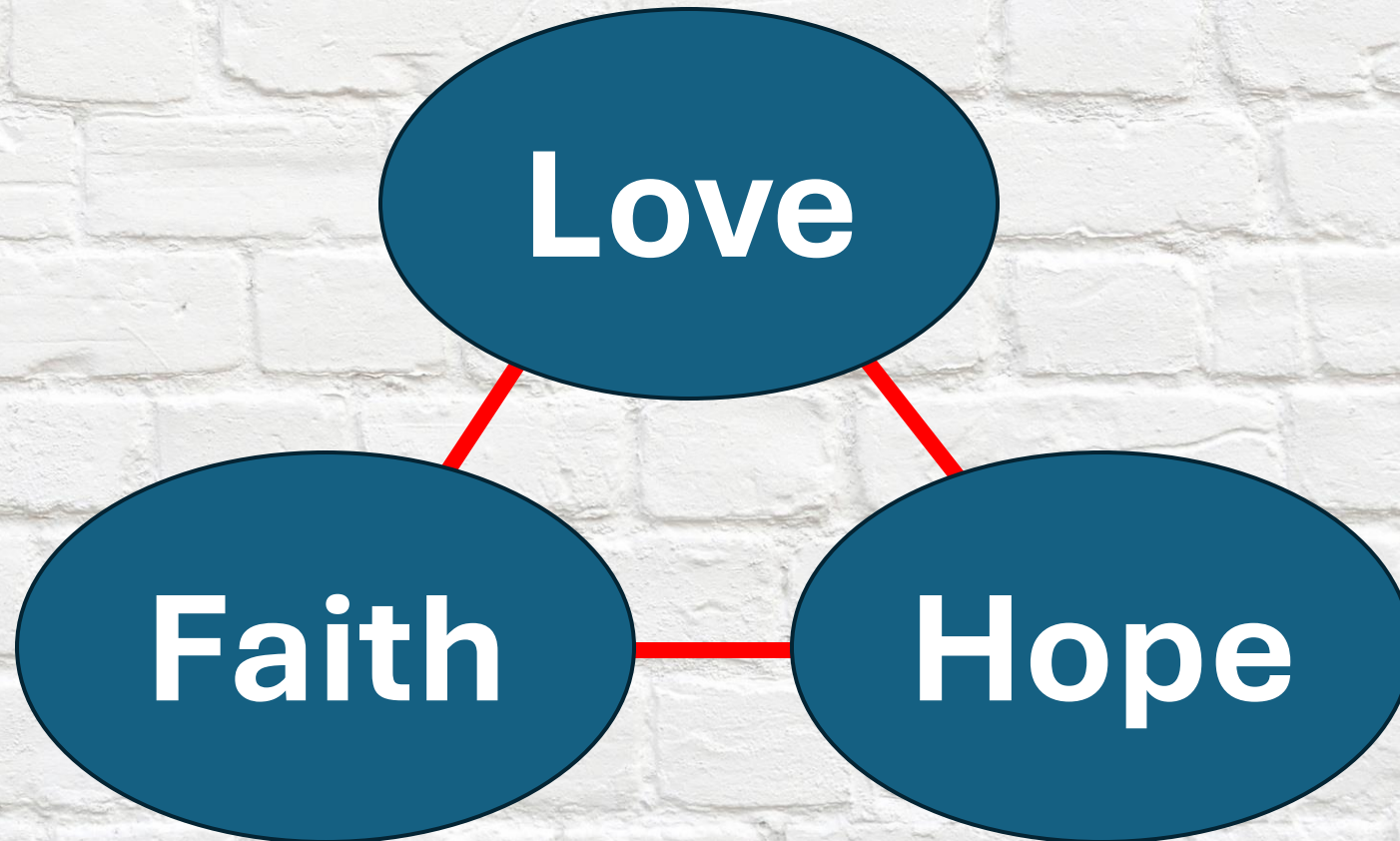
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Galatians 5:16-24

- 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
- 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
- 19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

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17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the Spirit is against the desires of the flesh, so that you may not do what you desire. The Spirit helps you in your weakness; you do not know what to pray for as you ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for you with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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Love:

A **covenantal commitment** to an **unconditional pursuit** of **valuing** others the way God **values** them.

To treat others the way
Jesus treats us.

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18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you will not be subject to the law of sin and death.

19-21 Now the works of the flesh are these: sensuality, impurity, rivalry, anger, dissensions, and jealousies; envy, drunkenness, and such like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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1. Renew our own personal relationship with Christ because, when we experience His love for us, that gives us the 'overflow' to love others.

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2. Target people in our lives so we can prioritize their well-being over ours, even at personal cost.



A Blessing

**May the intentional and
the intensive pursuit of love
be the path that dominates your life
as a follower of Christ.**

