

For the Love of the Church: Total Availability

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 20:7-17.

B. There is something that makes some Christians more effective than others. A compassion for the church is a common denominator. (Philippians 1, 2 Corinthians 3:2, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

II. Love is not just spoken—it is demonstrated. (1 Corinthians 13)

A. In affection.

B. In teaching. (1 Peter 5:1)

C. In persistence.

D. In giving.

E. In availability.

III. The early believers celebrated communion weekly on Sunday. (John 20:19, Revelation 1:10, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Corinthians 16:2)

A. This was not the Sabbath day—God was tolerant about when they worshipped. (Romans 14:5)

B. All Sabbath law somehow got imposed on the Lord's Day, but it is not the Sabbath.

C. The Lord's Supper centered around a love feast and communion. (1 Corinthians 16:19; 11:20)

IV. Preaching and teaching was the priority when the people met. (Acts 6:4; 12:24)

A. Teaching was always a precursor to revival.

B. Miracles always served the teachers of the New Testament era. (Philippians 3:10)

C. There were no bounds on Paul's teaching.

D. Paul was available.

V. Conclusion. We are to pattern Paul in his love for the church. (Philippians 3:17, Romans 12)

A. Let love be without hypocrisy.

B. Be kind.

C. Give.

D. Minister your gift.

E. Persist.

F. Be available.

G. Be concerned.

Application Questions:

1. How is the gift of availability expressed through communal worship?

2. How can churches better underscore the importance of teaching?

3. How would you assess your own love for the church? What can you do to grow?
