

LOVE AND CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH

Acts 20:13-38

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Characterize your love for the Lord.

Anyone who truly loves the Lord loves that which He loves... especially, His body, the church. Characterize your love for His church.

Jesus set the example – *Ephesians 5:25-27*

Paul viewed the ministry, not as a self-serving effort – but as a service to the Lord.

- *1 Corinthians 10:31*
- *Matthew 25:31-46*
- *Colossians 3:24*

Pauls' life and ministry give evidence of two things that mark a true servant of the Lord.

1. Humility

- *Acts 20:10*
- *2 Corinthians 3:5*
- *James 4:6b*
- *James 4:10*

2. Suffering

- *1 Peter 2:21*
- *2 Timothy 3:12*
- *Acts 14:22*

If someone watched you this past year, what would they assume a Christian lifestyle is like?

Paul saw as his first responsibility the teaching of God's Word.

Teaching God's Word must always include the need for repentance. (v. 21)

Only one thing mattered to Paul – v. 24

How would you complete this sentence: "The one thing I must accomplish at any cost is _____"?

Paul's final exhortations:

1. "Keep watch over yourselves." (v. 28a)

Meaning what?

- 1 Timothy 4:16
- 2 Corinthians 1:12

2. Keep watch over "all the flock." (v. 28b)

- Who does the church belong to?
- Was a price paid...what was the price?
- 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

3. Guard the flock. (vv. 29-31)

4. Be committed to God and to His Word. (v. 32)

- *1 Peter 2:2*

5. A ministry that truly honors God focuses on giving not getting.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

- *2 Corinthians 8:9*

In the race toward doing God's will, are you (circle one)

- a) In the front of the pack
- b) One of the stragglers
- c) An onlooker

Why?