

# Paul's Love for the Church

Acts 20:1-16

## Introduction

Acts 19:21

Isaiah 52:7

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

1 John 5:1

A passionate love for Christ begets a burning desire to fulfill His will at the expense of our own.

Ephesians 3:20-21

## Paul revealed his deep love for the Church in the letters he wrote:

- 1) In sacrifice and service
- 2) In longing and affection
- 3) In suffering and affliction
- 4) In anguish and aggravation
- 5) In compassion and generosity

## 1) In sacrifice and service...

Colossians 1:24

1 John 3:16

Philippians 2:17

Paul loved the Church, and his goal was the salvation, edification, and perfection of the saints.

Colossians 1:28-29

Acts 14:19-22

Acts 15:40-41

Acts 18:22-23

Paul's love was demonstrated in action. There are many who say a lot of nice things, but few who act:

Ezekiel 33:30-32

## **2) In longing and affection...**

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—” Romans 1:11

Romans 15:23

“so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.” Romans 15:32

Philippians 1:1, 3, 7, 8

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

## **3) In suffering and affliction...**

“I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?” 2 Corinthians 12:15

“If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort,” 2 Corinthians 1:6

2 Corinthians 7:2-4

2 Corinthians 11:23-29

“From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.” Galatians 6:17

Colossians 1:24

2 Timothy 2:10

## **4) In anguish and aggravation...**

2 Corinthians 2:4

Acts 20:18-19

“for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears.” Acts 20:31

Philippians 3:17-20

Galatians 1:6-7

Galatians 1:10

Galatians 3:1-3

Galatians 4:9-8,11

Galatians 5:12

Mark's abandoning the first mission was upsetting for Paul: Acts 15:37-39

The desertion of Demas deeply disturbed Paul: 2 Timothy 4:10

## **5) In compassion and generosity...**

**v1**

Paul sets out to take up the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

Acts 11:27-29

Galatians 2:10

1 Corinthians 16:1-3

1 Corinthians 16:5-9

Romans 15:25-28

Caring and giving to the needs of others has a unifying effect. Gratitude and generosity produce *unity*.

Romans 15:30-32