

Act Like It

Series: Devoted

Pastor John Messner 3/30/26

The Church Is the People. It is the gathering of the people of God.

So for you to say that you are a part or a member of this church means that you are a part of **this people**. It means that you are **devoted** to the PEOPLE of this church.

1 Peter 4:8: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

The Greek gives us different words for love:

- Agape – Sacrificial love, a choice to do good for another. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). He chose to show love to us, in spite of our actions against him. This is the love Jesus commands in John 13:34:
- Phileo – Deep friendship, an affectionate, emotional connection. This is used to describe Jesus' love for Lazarus in John 11:3 and for John in John 20:2.
- Storge – Family love, the natural bond among relatives.

Romans 12:10: "Be devoted to one another in love." The word "devoted" here is *philos storgos*—a combination of deep friendship and family love.

Now, back to 1 Peter 4:8: "Above all, agape one another deeply." The word "deeply" also translates as "fervently." This same word is used in Acts 12

There is an intensity behind the love in action.

Colossians 3:12-14: "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Bear with one another.. where does that strength come from?

Romans 15: 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Being devoted to the church also means being devoted to **the leadership God has put in place.**

Titus 1:7 says, *"An elder is a manager of God's household."*

Hebrews 13:17 says:

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who must give an account."

"You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine." – **Titus 2:1**

"Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance." – **Titus 2:2**

"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children..." – **Titus 2:3-4**

"...to urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God." – **Titus 2:4-5**

"Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled." – **Titus 2:6**

"In everything, set them an example by doing what is good." – **Titus 2:7a**

Titus 3:8 says, *"So that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good."*

Titus 3:14 Our people **must learn** to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

James 3:14-16 *"But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."*

1 Timothy 5:20 – ***"As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear."***

1 Samuel 18:1-4

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved (ahav - deep friendship loyalty) him as himself. **2** From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. **3** And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. **4** Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

Be devoted to one another in love, honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord.

Proverbs 17:17 ***"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."***

1 Samuel 23:16 And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.

Romans 12:10-11 (NIV)

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord."

SO WHAT?

Are you devoted to this group of believers that happen to gather in a building that we call First Baptist Church? Would you make that kind of promise to the people of this church, and that includes the leadership of this church? **If so, I pray you'll take that vow or commitment of membership. And then live it!**

John 13:35 ***"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love (agape) one another."***