

ABOVE ALL

1 Peter 4:7-11

The End of all Things

Be Self-controlled and Sober-minded

Above All, Keep Loving One Another Earnestly

Since Love Covers A Multitude of Sins

Show Hospitality without Grumbling

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Did anything in particular stand out to you in Sunday's sermon?

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

In verse 7, Peter challenges his churches to act out their faith expectantly: "The end of all things is at hand; therefore ..." (see also: James 5:7-11, 1 Peter 1:13, Matthew 24:36-44) Do verses like these motivate you to live for Jesus with greater self-control and sober-mindedness? How so?

Peter goes on to say, "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly." Why do you think Peter puts love "above all" things we do for each other? Why might this be important for churches like his that are suffering because of their faith?

Describe in your own words what you believe Peter means when he says, "since love covers a multitude of sins." In what ways have you experienced earnest love and authentic forgiveness within the church community? Conversely, how easy is it for you to love abundantly, in a way that is always hoping, persevering, and with Christ-like grace?

In addition to love, Peter emphasizes that we are to be "good stewards of God's varied grace," serving one another according to our spiritual gifts—Peter mentions several in verses 9-11. The apostle Paul also writes much about gifts (see: Rom 12:6-8, 1 Cor 12:8-10, 28-30, Eph 4:11). Which of these has God given you? In what ways are you using your gifts so that "in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (v. 11)?

Peter teaches the importance of using our gifts with a Christ-like attitude and from a good heart. One example he gives is showing hospitality without grumbling. As you use your gifts at Creekside, do you ever struggle with this? As a practical matter, how does God help you serve "as one who serves by the strength that God supplies" (v. 10)?

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